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WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia hits Ukraine's 2 largest cities

Blasts in Kharkiv, Kyiv as long convoy approaches capital

By Yuras Karmanau, Jim Heintz, Vladimir Isachenkov and Dasha Litvinova
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces shelled Ukraine's second-largest city on Monday, rocking a residential neighborhood, and

closed in on the capital, Kyiv, in a 40-mile convoy of hundreds of tanks and other vehicles, as talks aimed at stopping the fighting yielded only an agreement to keep talking.

The country's president said the stepped-up shelling was aimed at forcing him into concessions.

"I believe Russia is trying to put pressure (on Ukraine) with this simple method," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late

Monday in a video address. He did not offer details of the hours-long talks that took place earlier, but said that Kyiv was not prepared to make concessions "when one side is hitting each other with rocket artillery."

Amid ever-growing international condemnation, Russia found itself increasingly isolated five days into its invasion, while also facing unexpectedly fierce

Turn to Ukraine, Page 3



A police officer on patrol gestures toward a pedestrian as an air raid siren goes off Monday in Kyiv, Ukraine. **VADIM GHIRDA/AP**

INSIDE

- A sense of helplessness has overcome Ukrainians in America. **PAGE A3**
- The mass exodus of refugees from Ukraine to the eastern edge of the European Union showed no signs of stopping Monday. **PAGE 4**
- **ANALYSIS:** Russia has pushed Democrats, Republicans toward rare bipartisanship. **PAGE 4**
- Putin's war ushers in crisis on different fronts. **PAGE 5**



"We've been here three times in the last month" said Dereck Cutone of Terryville, who came with his daughter Adley to Amato's Toy and Hobby in New Britain on its final day of operation. **MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT**

Goodbye, Amato's

Toy, hobby shop in New Britain closes

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Wrapping up 19 years behind the register at Amato's Toy and Hobby in New Britain, Danica Levesque figures she'll miss the little children most of all.

"Some of them would come in and their eyes would get wide. Their parents or grandparents would tell them 'This is a toy store. You've never been in a real one before. This one is real,'" Levesque said.

From its creaking, circa-1925 hardwood floors to its shelves of 1940s to 1990s board games, Amato's could never have been confused with any big-box chain outlet.

Starting this week, though, memories are all that will be left: Monday was the end of the line for what had been one of central Connecticut's best-loved hobby shops for more than 60 years.

Turn to Amato's, Page 2



Steve Amato, left, talks with Ernie Miranda in the aisle of Amato's Toy and Hobby on Monday as the New Britain toy store closed.

Lamont: Israel trip helps state lure tech

Governor seeks companies looking to tap vast US markets, 3 'ready to invest'

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

NEW HAVEN — Gov. Ned Lamont said Monday a weeklong trade trip to Israel put Connecticut "back on the radar screen" as it competes with other Northeastern states recruiting technology firms looking to tap vast U.S. markets.

The governor, the first Connecticut chief executive to visit Israel since Gov. John Rowland 25 years ago, led a delegation last week promoting Connecticut as a haven for venture capital and startup businesses.

"Getting to know these folks, look them in the eye, they know a little bit more about you, they tell a little bit the story about Connecticut," he said. "I think we're back on the radar screen. It's now New York, New Jersey and Connecticut."

Three firms "ready to invest" in Connecticut and other parts of the U.S. are H2Pro, a sustainable hydrogen fuel company; Aleph Farms, a cultured meat startup; and Future Meat Technologies, or Future Meat, a biotechnology firm that produces cultured meat from chicken cells, said Economic Development Commissioner David Lehman.

Future Meat and Aleph Farms are considering setting up labs in Connecticut and could each hire 50 to 75 employees initially later this year, Lamont and Lehman said.

Israel, described as a "tech hub," by Matthew McCooe, chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, the state's venture capital firm, was chosen for the trade trip because of its advanced technology in the financial, medical equipment and aviation and defense industries.

"This sort of flywheel of having repeated interactions is incredibly important for who we are, for what the state aims to become and it sort of gives them a picture of why they should come to Connecticut. They can go anywhere," he said at a news conference at CI's offices in New Haven.

CI will invest between \$45 million and \$50 million this year in more than 100 investment opportunities "of which a very small percentage" are Israeli companies.

Turn to Tech, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Experts: Mask mandates fall along geographic lines

Authorities point to health inequality

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

As students in all but a handful of Connecticut districts headed into their last day of mandated mask wearing in schools, experts say the issue brings into focus health disparities in the state and how COVID-19 has affected

people of color.

Though vocal and well-organized protests have lent a political flavor to the issue of masks in schools, local decisions regarding whether to extend mandates beyond Feb. 28 have largely fallen along geographic lines, not political ones.

While Connecticut's largest cities — including Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, Danbury and Stamford — will continue masking, most subur-

ban and rural communities, regardless of political leaning, have announced they will drop their mask requirement once the statewide mandate expires at the end of the month.

Frances Rabinowitz, executive director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, said the differences in approach should be a "call to action" to reexamine COVID-19's disparate impact on at-risk communities, which

INSIDE

- What you need to know about the new school mask mandate policy. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

in Connecticut are most often concentrated in cities.

"In the cities, keeping the masks on is the right thing to do. But why do they have to do it?" Rabinowitz said. "Why is it that

Turn to Masks, Page 3



Essie Thomas helps her son, Jamie Lee Anderson, with his mask in September 2020 before he enters Sarah J. Rawson STEAM School in Hartford. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Budget panel wants tighter control of state contracting

The General Assembly's budget-writing panel is pushing back against Gov. Ned Lamont to assume greater control over contracting policies. **CONNECTICUT, PAGE 1**

Opinion.....**News 10**
Obits.....**News 12-14**
Lottery.....**News 2**
Classified.....**News 11**

Puzzles.....**Connecticut 7, 9**
Comics.....**Connecticut 8-9**
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FROM PAGE ONE

Amato's

from Page 1

Preparing for semi-retirement, owners Steve and Sheri Amato began a store-closing sale in mid-January; Monday was the final day. Clearance discounts of 20 to 50% brought in a steady stream of buyers, but many came mostly to say goodbye.

"This is sad, but I know he has to move on," said Art Speranza, of Wethersfield, a customer for the past decade.

"You come in here, you feel so comfortable — you're like family. And they're very helpful, knowledgeable. If you go online, it's very hit or miss. Here he's got basically everything you want," Speranza said.

Speranza is among a loyal group of model train enthusiasts who rely on Amato's for everything from scenery, trestles and track to second-hand locomotives and box cars. In more than a half-century in the toy business, Steve Amato has sold trendy items from the Furby to Hungry Hungry Hippos and Big Wheels, but considers trains as a secure niche that never goes out of style.

The back wall of Amato's 9,600-square-foot store displayed scores upon scores of railroad-related items. A working model train in a compact layout ran in one corner, and shelves offered pricy collector-oriented



Sean Raymond of Southington, right, loads toys in his car with the help of Amato's employee Chris Pawlow on the store's final day of operation. MARK MIRKO PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

trains — particularly Lionel and vintage American Flyer locomotives.

Unlike a general toy retailer, Amato's is known for dealing in vintage trains — sometimes secondhand and worn, occasionally still in fading, decades-old original wrapping.

At a workbench in "employees only" storage room in the back, 85-year-old Bob Lariviere was still working Monday on repairs to red American Flyer locomotive from its 1950 circus train.

"The new ones have circuit boards, they're different. But a train like this you

can keep going forever," Lariviere said.

Like model railroaders in general, Amato's train shoppers skewed heavily toward late middle age and up. But there were exceptions.

"I came in here and it was just complete wonderland," said 26-year-old Josh Wilson, who periodically made trips from his home in Ledyard specifically for the inventory of used trains.

"The draw to the hobby for me is having something that is broken or has all kinds of dents and dings. I'll take it home and put my personal touch to bring it back to what

I think it would look best as," Wilson said after buying \$276 worth of locomotives and scenery for his layout. "This is a place with a whole wall of stuff that's reasonably priced and has all kinds of history behind it."

Amato's shoppers also include a sprinkling of classic toy collectors, radio-controlled car enthusiasts and, of course, parents and children looking simply for toys. Levesque — Sheri Amato's sister — enjoys them most of all.

"The ones I'm really going to remember are the little kids who come in with



Bob Lariviere, 85, who works as a model train repairman in the back of Amato's Toy and Hobby, solders wires on a vintage Lionel steam engine.

pocket change in a little baggie," she said. "There'll be a little kid who is so excited and proud. We'll be counting out the nickels and dimes and pennies to see if he has enough to pay for his toy. I don't know if other stores would do that."

"Amato's was about service. You can't go into another store and get that — they barely know what they're selling, let alone how to fix it or get you going," she said.

Steve Amato's father at one time had toy stores in several Connecticut cities, but in recent decades there have been just two: The Middletown store and the New Britain one.

Diane Gervais, Steve Amato's sister, owns the Middletown business and plans to keep going.

But Steve Amato, who has run the New Britain shop since 1976, said he and his wife are ready to shift to an online and mail

order business. They've sold the 97-year-old Main Street building to developer Avner Krohn, who intends to demolish it to make way for an apartment complex.

Amato recalled being asked how his store was still operating when even giant Toys R Us had gone out of business.

"One of the early messages I remember from my dad was that you don't build a business solely on price. That's the easy thing to do. You build a good business with relationships, stand behind what you sell," he said.

"And the other thing was that you can't focus on what you like. My job is to have and sell you want you want, not to get you to buy what I want," he said. "I've seen hobbyists get into the business and fail because they focus too much on their interest. I should ask what you want, what do you want to do with it — and then sell you that."

Tech

from Page 1

nies, McCooe said.

Lamont and his economic development team and several Connecticut businesses met with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, other officials and business executives. Lehman said Connecticut's representatives focused on financial technology, biotech, food and agriculture and aerospace and defense.

Lamont and others traveling with him met with 15 or 20 other companies,

Lehman said. Others who joined were representatives of defense and aviation giant Raytheon Technologies Corp.; Hartford HealthCare; Digital Currency Group, a Stamford investment firm in bitcoin and blockchain technology; the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut; and University of Connecticut.

State officials chose Israel four or five years ago as a potential venture capital partner, McCooe said.

Connecticut is competing with other Northeast states for Israeli startups looking to extend their reach into the sprawling and lucrative

Eastern Seaboard. Lamont said Israelis he met were particularly interested in locating their businesses near JFK International Airport in New York.

"They didn't realize Kennedy is as close to Stamford as it is to the west side of Manhattan," he said.

State officials also pitched Connecticut's "Jewish life," Lehman said. The state has a Jewish population of more than 115,000, or 3.3% of the population, and 15 Jewish day schools, he said.

Stephen Singer can be reached at ssinger@courant.com.



Matthew McCooe, chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, the state's venture capital fund, spoke Monday about a recent Israel trade trip. Economic Development Commissioner David Lehman, left, and Gov. Ned Lamont listen. SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

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PLAY4 NIGHT 4 5 2 5 WB: 6
CASH 5 8 12 19 25 31
LUCKY FOR LIFE 7 8 33 39 47 LB: 1

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FROM PAGE ONE

Ukrainians in US decrying invasion

Across the country, prayers are offered and action is taken

By Michael Rubinkam and Elliot Spagat
Associated Press

The Rev. Myron Myronyuk stayed up all night at home in Pennsylvania as his twin brother tried to flee Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, only to turn back because the road out was choked with traffic. His in-laws, also in Ukraine, told him they couldn't get basics like bread and milk.

There was little Myronyuk could do but pray that his loved ones would survive the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

A sense of helplessness overcame Ukrainians in America as the war unfolded. For now, they are trying to donate money and supplies, desperately seeking advice from immigration attorneys about how to get family here and pleading for world leaders to intervene more forcefully.

"I say, 'We're praying for you, we wish you to be safe, go to a safe place,'" said Myronyuk, pastor of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania. "We have to continue to pray and ask God for help," he said, but "there's not much else we can do here."

Demonstrators recently gathered in Manhattan's Times Square and near the Russian Federation's mission to the United Nations, waving Ukrainian flags and denouncing Russian President Vladimir Putin. About 100 people took to an overpass in Chicago, putting their hands to their hearts as the Ukrainian national anthem blared from a big speaker.

"The worst part is we cannot help them any more. We would send money, but everything is closed," said Chicago resident Hrystyna



Olena Avtukh joins in prayer to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Thursday at the State Capitol Building in Sacramento, Calif. **RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP**

Klym, who has been in the U.S. for 15 years and has family in Ukraine. Klym volunteers with an organization that has regularly sent clothes, magazines, money and other items to help Ukraine's needy, particularly wounded soldiers, but she said there's no way to donate directly now.

At Ukrainian Village Food & Deli in the Cleveland suburb of Parma Heights, Mila Radeva, 39, said her father — who lives near the Ukrainian port city of Odessa — had taken shelter in his basement as explosions rocked the area.

"A lot of people are going to die," said a worried Radeva, who emigrated to the U.S. 20 years ago. Asked if her father and other relatives might flee to another country, she said: "There's no place for them to run."

Ekaterina Mouratova, a Miami immigration attorney, said last Thursday was "a crazy day," with phone calls and emails from Ukrainians and Russians seeking refuge in the United States. Ukrainians hope to flee Russian troops, while Russians worry they may get drafted and have bank accounts frozen in a wartime economy.

She offered little encouragement, predicting Poland would be a far more realistic possibility for escape.

"There is no effective legal mechanism to bring people here," she said.

Ukrainians could potentially flee their country, fly to Mexico from Europe as tourists, and enter the U.S. by land to claim asylum, as a growing number of Russians have done over the last year, Mouratova said. Fleeing war,

however, is not considered legal grounds for asylum.

Ukrainians could also be eligible for refugee resettlement — under which up to 125,000 can be accepted in the U.S. this year after being approved abroad — but processing has been slow as U.S. authorities focus on Afghans seeking to flee Taliban rule.

Immigration advocates urged the Biden administration to grant Temporary Protected Status to Ukraine, a form of reprieve for its citizens already in the United States. The U.S. has granted TPS to 12 countries afflicted by war or natural disaster.

Chicago immigration attorney Natalia Blauvelt, who also fielded calls from desperate Ukrainian clients, potential clients and friends, said they are "absolutely devastated, extremely sad. ...

They are panicking because of what is happening in Ukraine, and many of them don't know what to do and help their relatives."

More than 1 million people in the U.S. report Ukrainian ancestry, according to the Census.

Oksana Bilobran, an attorney in Seattle's Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, came to the U.S. from Ukraine 17 years ago. She and others have been urging elected officials to do more, including securing a no-fly zone over Ukraine and providing humanitarian protection for Ukrainians now in the U.S. so they don't have to return.

They are also working on ways to support Ukraine financially, since apps like Venmo and PayPal aren't readily available there.

"We need to up our fund-

raising to provide necessities because the Ukrainian military is no match for the Russian army, so we need to provide as much help as we can here," she said.

In Philadelphia, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee — formed in World War II to help resettle Ukrainian refugees — has pivoted to a wartime footing again, readying a container packed with clothing, diapers, wheelchairs, medical supplies and personal hygiene items. Executive director Motrja Watters, whose parents were born in Ukraine, said relief groups are coordinating their response so aid is delivered as effectively as possible.

"Everybody's trying to get a grip on the how and the where the needs are in Ukraine," she said.

Ukraine

from Page 1

resistance on the ground in Ukraine and economic havoc at home.

For the second day in a row, the Kremlin raised the specter of nuclear war, announcing that its nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarines and long-range bombers had all been put on high alert, following President Vladimir Putin's orders over the weekend.

Stepping up his rhetoric, Putin denounced the U.S. and its allies as an "empire of lies."

Meanwhile, an embattled Ukraine moved to solidify its ties to the West by applying to join the European Union — a largely symbolic move for now, but one that is unlikely to sit well with Putin, who has long accused the U.S. of trying to pull Ukraine out of Moscow's orbit.

A top Putin aide and head of the Russian delegation, Vladimir Medinsky, said the first talks between the two sides since the invasion lasted nearly five hours and that the envoys "found



People wait for trains on the platform at Kyiv train station Monday in Kyiv, Ukraine. **CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY**

certain points on which common positions could be foreseen." He said they agreed to talk again in the coming days.

As the talks along the Belarusian border wrapped up, several blasts could be heard in Kyiv, and Russian troops advanced on the city of nearly 3 million. The vast convoy of armored vehicles,

tanks, artillery and support vehicles was 17 miles from the center of the city and stretched to 40 miles, according to satellite imagery from Maxar Technologies.

People in Kyiv lined up for groceries after the end of a weekend curfew, standing beneath a building with a gaping hole blown in its side. Kyiv remained "a key goal"

for the Russians, Zelenskyy said, noting that it was hit by three missile strikes on Monday and that hundreds of saboteurs were roaming the city.

"They want to break our nationhood, that's why the capital is constantly under threat," Zelenskyy said.

Messages aimed at the advancing Russian soldiers

popped up on billboards, bus stops and electronic traffic signs across the capital. Some used profanity to encourage Russians to leave. Others appealed to their humanity.

"Russian soldier — Stop! Remember your family. Go home with a clean conscience," one read.

Video from Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-biggest city, with a population of about 1.5 million, showed residential areas being shelled, with apartment buildings shaken by repeated, powerful blasts. Flashes of fire and gray plumes of smoke could be seen.

Footage released by the government from Kharkiv depicted what appeared to be a home with water gushing from a pierced ceiling. What looked like an undetonated projectile was on the floor.

Authorities in Kharkiv said at least seven people had been killed and dozens injured. They warned that casualties could be far higher.

"They wanted to have a blitzkrieg, but it failed, so they act this way," said 83-year-old Valentin Petrovich, who watched the

shelling from his downtown apartment and gave just his first name and his Russian-style middle name out of fear for his safety.

The Russian military has denied targeting residential areas despite abundant evidence of shelling of homes, schools and hospitals.

Fighting raged in other towns and cities across the country. The strategic port city of Mariupol, on the Sea of Azov, is "hanging on," said Zelenskyy adviser Oleksiy Arestovich. An oil depot was reported bombed in the eastern city of Sumy. Despite its military strength, Russia still lacked control of Ukrainian airspace.

In Berdyansk, dozens of protesters chanted angrily in the main square against Russian occupiers, yelling at them to go home and singing the Ukrainian national anthem. They described the soldiers as exhausted young conscripts.

"Frightened kids, frightened looks. They want to eat," Konstantin Maloletka, who runs a small shop, said by telephone. He said the soldiers went into a supermarket and grabbed canned meat, vodka and cigarettes.

Masks

from Page 1

the vaccination rate is so low, and the prevalence and hospitalizations are much higher?"

Vaccination rates among young children lag behind other age groups nationwide, but there's been a marked difference in rates between Connecticut communities.

West Hartford Public Schools, among those districts doing away with mandates come March, cited changes in Department of Public Health guidance, declining case numbers and the district's success with vaccinations.

In a letter to West Hartford parents last week, Superintendent Tom Moore said the district's vaccination rates "are within the top five of any community in the state, far outperforming state and national averages for school-

aged children."

Sixty-four percent of West Hartford students age 5-11 have received at least one dose, compared to just 19% of Hartford students from the same cohort.

And more than 98% of West Hartford students age 12-17 have received at least one dose, compared to 45% of students 12 and up in Hartford schools.

While masks are set to come off in neighboring districts, Hartford Public Schools announced last week it would keep its mask requirement in place through March, and revisit it on April 1.

Dr. Juan Salazar, physician-in-chief at Connecticut Children's, said it makes sense to extend the mandate in Hartford schools given "low vaccination rates in the younger population, still-high transmission rates, high positivity rates."

As of Feb. 22, 46% of 5- to

11-year-olds statewide have received their first dose, the state said Thursday. In Connecticut's large cities, rates in this age range lag behind.

Of the cities that have chosen to continue masking, Rabinowitz said, "they're making the appropriate decision" based on the data.

"But it's a symptom of the inequity that has existed forever, and certainly is manifest in the pandemic," she said. "I believe that it warrants a very deep review to figure out why this is occurring. We need to talk to people in the cities to determine why it is happening the way it is."

Health experts haven't landed on a single explanation, but Ayesha Clarke, deputy director of Health Equity Solutions and former Hartford Public Schools board chair, said it "not just about hesitancy so much as it's about access."

"We have to ... make sure we are providing space of access to those families that support their own schedules," Clarke said.

Hartford city and school officials have worked to cut down the barriers to vaccine access that existed when the vaccines were first distributed, and in March 2021, Gov. Ned Lamont launched an equity target to address an emerging gap between white residents and residents of color — a major concern last spring.

Discrepancies in vaccination rates are just one example of the disparate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and other at-risk groups stretching back to the beginning of the pandemic, when Connecticut residents of color were testing positive for, and dying from, the disease at disproportionate rates.

Disparities in access to health care, as well as

mistrust in health departments and the government built upon historical incidents of malpractice, have further compounded the pandemic's impact.

"We know that in our urban communities, statistically, there are more health issues," Clarke said, more issues with affordability, and with preventive health. "All those complications we know are in our urban communities, and COVID-19 hits the most vulnerable people at a higher rate."

And when surging COVID-19 cases prompt school closures and delays, it's urban students who are most impacted, Clarke added.

Dr. Leslie Torres-Rodriguez, superintendent of Hartford Public Schools, noted last week that many Hartford students live in multigenerational households and face the risk of passing the virus on to older, more-vulnerable relatives.

While requirements are dropping along geographic lines, infectious disease specialists have noted that the coronavirus doesn't recognize borders.

Dr. Ulysses Wu, chief epidemiologist at Hartford HealthCare, said Thursday that the differences in masking from town to town make sense "from a political perspective," but not a scientific one.

"From a pure science perspective, we should be de-masking all at the same time," he said.

Wu said he doesn't think it's time yet to lift mask mandates but that the time might come "soon, possibly in a week or two."

Courant staff writer Alex Puttermann contributed to this report.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com.

WAR IN UKRAINE

No stopping of displacement seen

Over 500K have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion

By Justin Spike
Associated Press

BEREGSURANY, Hungary — The mass exodus of refugees from Ukraine to the eastern edge of the European Union showed no signs of stopping Monday, with the U.N. estimating that more than 500,000 people have already escaped Russia's burgeoning war against Ukraine.

Long lines of cars and buses were backed up at checkpoints at the borders of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and non-EU member Moldova. Others crossed the borders on foot while dragging their possessions.

Several hundred refugees were gathered at a temporary reception center in the Hungarian border village of Beregsurany, awaiting transportation to transit hubs.

Maria Pavlushko, 24, an information technology project manager from Zhytomyr, a city around 60 miles west of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, said she had been on a skiing holiday in the Carpathian mountains when she got word from home last week that Russia's invasion had begun.

"My granny called me saying there is war in the city," she said.

Pavlushko plans to travel from Hungary to Poland, where her mother lives. But her grandmother is still in Zhytomyr, she said, and her father stayed behind to join the fight against the invading Russian forces sent in by



Hanna Pavlovna Lukasz of Mirgorod, Ukraine, waits and worries about her mother and sons reaching Poland. VISAR KRYEZIU/AP

Vladimir Putin.

"I am proud about him," she said. "A lot of my friends, a lot of young boys are going ... to kill (the Russian soldiers)."

Many of the refugees at the reception center in Beregsurany, as in other border areas in Eastern Europe, are from India, Nigeria and other African countries, and were working or studying in Ukraine when the war broke out.

Masroor Ahmed, a 22-year-old Indian medical student studying in Ternopil in western Ukraine, came with 18 other Indian students to the Hungarian border. He said they hoped to reach the capital

of Budapest, where India's government has organized an evacuation flight for its citizens.

While Ternopil has not yet experienced violence in the war, he said. "It might be that there is bombing next hour, next month or next year. We are not sure, that's why we left that city."

Hungary, in a turnaround from its long-standing opposition to immigration and refusal to accept refugees from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has opened its borders to all refugees fleeing Ukraine, including third-country nationals that can prove Ukrainian residency.

As part of an agreement

with some foreign governments, Hungary has set up a "humanitarian corridor" to escort non-Ukrainian nationals from the border to airports in the city of Debrecen and the capital, Budapest.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi tweeted on Monday that more than 500,000 refugees have now fled from Ukraine into neighboring countries.

Shabia Mantoo, a UNHCR spokeswoman, said the latest count stood at roughly 281,000 in Poland, 84,500 in Hungary, 36,400 in Moldova, 32,500 in Romania and 30,000 in Slovakia.

The rest were scattered in unidentified other coun-

tries, she said.

In Poland, trains continued to bring refugees into the border town of Przemyśl on Monday. In winter coats to protect them against near-freezing temperatures, many carried small suitcases as they lined up at the platform to exit the station.

Polish U.N. Ambassador Krzysztof Szczerski, speaking at the General Assembly, said that in addition to Ukrainians, those coming in Monday included people of some 125 nationalities.

Otoman Adel Abid, a student from Iraq, fled to Poland from the western city of Lviv after he said panic broke out there.

"Everyone ran to buy

some food, and we heard bombs everywhere," he told The Associated Press. "After that we directly packed our bag and clothes and some documents, and we ran to the train station."

Natalia Pivniuk, a young Ukrainian woman from Lviv, described people crowding and pushing to get on the train, which she said was "very scary, and dangerous physically and dangerous mentally."

"People are under stress ... and when people are scared they become egoist and forget about everything," she said. "People are traumatized because they were on that train."

Most of those fleeing Ukraine were entering the EU from its eastern flank, with some traveling on to countries further west.

Aksieniiia Shtimmerman, 41, arrived with her four children in Berlin on Monday morning after a three-day odyssey from Kyiv.

Sitting on a bench inside the German capital's main train station, she attempted to decipher a leaflet with instructions and maps on how to reach a shelter for new arrivals.

As she tried to comfort her crying 3-year-old twin boys, Shtimmerman said she had worked in telecommunications at a Kyiv university, but was now only seeking a place where she and her children could eat, sleep and rest.

"I grabbed my kids on Friday morning at 7 a.m. to run away from the war," Shtimmerman said. "I can't even count anymore how many different trains we took until we arrived here."

ANALYSIS

State of the Union amid disputes, Ukraine conflict

Russia has pushed Dems, GOP toward rare bipartisanship

By Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They have argued viciously in Congress over just about everything: Whether the U.S. Capitol insurrection should be investigated or brushed aside. If the president's choice for the Supreme Court should be limited to the first Black woman. Even over whether or not to wear masks in the Capitol building.

But as lawmakers gather for President Joe Biden's first State of the Union address amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, they have mustered a rare and remarkable bipartisan resolve, determined to hold the U.S. and its allies together in the defense of a Western-oriented democracy.

When Biden stands in the House chamber Tuesday evening, trying to make good on what until now has been a faltering attempt to resolve the nation's bitter divisions, he may find that the threat from Russian President Vladimir Putin abroad has

become the unexpected force pulling the U.S. political parties toward common purpose.

"I think you will see in the State of the Union, a strong bipartisan support for our president," predicts Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a Biden ally.

The turn of events is both stunning and fragile. Foreign policy has not been the kind of bipartisan draw it was during the past century, when Congress and the White House worked together as the U.S. dominated the global stage. Factions on the right and left have broken off, most definitively over the long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, creating oddball political alliances in the U.S. and chiseling away at a shared mission.

The revival of a robust majority that's largely supportive of Biden's strategy toward Russia is even more striking because it is shaping up as one of the most significant rejections of Donald Trump's embrace of Putin and the former president's praise of Putin's tactics as Russia invaded Ukraine.

"We're all together at this point and we need to be

together about what should be done," said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell.

Still, the State of the Union address may not be free of partisan antics, unfolding against the backdrop of a Congress deeply divided over many issues: a prime-time address to the nation, too tempting for lawmakers looking for attention.

This year is particularly fraught amid ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and a Capitol still largely shuttered to the public. That's due in part to safety concerns in the aftermath of the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, assault by Trump supporters trying to stop Congress from certifying Biden's election.

Tuesday's gathering in the House chamber will be the first time since the pandemic outbreak in 2020 and last year's attack on the Capitol that all members of the House and Senate are being invited to gather for what typically has been an annual event.

Masks will no longer be required, removing one source of friction for those lawmakers who had flouted the guidelines and risked being booted from the session for failing to comply



The chamber of the House of Representatives at the U.S. Capitol, where President Biden will deliver his first State of the Union speech on Tuesday night. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

— though virus tests and social distancing measures will still be required

But the heavy metal security fence is back up around the Capitol complex, a bow to the "new normal" of threats from within America's own electorate.

And it can't be said that Republicans are fully pleased with Biden's handling of the Ukraine war.

McConnell, R-Ky., has been highly critical of the president's run-up to the crisis, calling the White House's chaotic exit from

Afghanistan last summer a sign of U.S. weakness that opened the door to Putin's invasion.

Leading Republican lawmakers have derided what defense hawks view as Biden's initial reluctance to impose sanctions to deter Putin's advance on Ukraine.

"We all know what Putin wants, and he said so publicly: He wants to reconstitute the USSR and pull back in his orbit all the countries that were in it before," said Sen. Jim Risch of Idaho, the top Republi-

can on the Foreign Relations Committee. "This is a seminal moment."

But even some of the Trump's staunch supporters are parting ways with the former president after he called Putin's invasion tactics "genius."

Republican Rep. Mo Brooks, who rallied with Trump supporters ahead of last year's assault on the Capitol and has won Trump's endorsement in the Alabama Senate primary, lambasted Putin's invasion as "barbaric and evil."



Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia blasted the U.S. decision. SETH WENIG/AP

US moves to expel 12 Russian diplomats for espionage

By Edith M. Lederer
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States announced Monday it is expelling 12 members of the Russian Mission at the United Nations, accusing them of being "intelligence operatives" engaged in espionage.

The Biden administration's action came on the fifth day of Russia's invasion of neighboring Ukraine, which has sparked condem-

nation from the United States and dozens of other countries.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations said in a statement that the Russian diplomats "have abused their privileges of residency in the United States by engaging in espionage activities that are adverse to our national security."

The mission said the expulsions have been "in development for several months" and are in accordance with the United

States' agreement with the United Nations as host of the 193-member world body.

The expulsions were first confirmed by U.S. deputy ambassador Richard Mills after Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the U.N. Security Council on Monday afternoon that he had just been informed of "yet another hostile step undertaken by the host country against the Russian Mission."

Nebenzia, who was presiding as this month's

council president at a session to discuss the dire humanitarian consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, called the U.S. expulsions a "gross violation" of the U.N. agreement with the United States and of the Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations.

"We'll see how events develop within the context of this decision," he said.

Mills then confirmed the expulsions, saying the Russian diplomats "were

engaged in activities that were not in accordance with their responsibilities and obligations as diplomats."

He said they are also in accord with the U.S.-U.N. agreement. Nebenzia countered that this was "not satisfactory."

According to the U.N. diplomatic directory, Russia has 79 diplomats accredited to the United Nations.

The U.S. Mission did not name those being expelled or state how long they are given to leave the country.

WORLD & NATION

Putin’s war ushers in crisis on different fronts

Russia’s economy and identity are also under attack

By Anton Troianovski and Ivan Nechepurenko
The New York Times

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin has ushered in a crisis for his country — in its economy and identity. The Kremlin is hiding the reality of the country’s attack on Ukraine from its own people, even cracking down on news outlets that call it a “war.” But the economic carnage and societal turmoil wrought by Putin’s invasion is becoming increasingly difficult to obscure. Airlines canceled once-ubiquitous flights to Europe. The central bank scrambled to deliver ruble bills as the demand for cash spiked 58-fold.

Economists warned of more inflation, greater capital flight and slower growth; and the S&P credit rating agency downgraded Russia to “junk” status. The Treasury Department on Monday moved to further cut off Russia from the global economy, announcing that it would immobilize Russian central bank assets that are held in the United States and impose sanctions on the Russian Direct Investment Fund, a sovereign wealth fund that is run by a close ally of Putin. The moves are meant to curb Russia’s ability to use its war chest of international reserves to blunt the impact of sanctions that the United States and European allies have enacted in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Russia has spent the last several years bolstering its defenses against sanctions, amassing \$643 billion in foreign currency reserves in part by diverting its oil and gas revenues. New restrictions by the United States and its allies against sell-



Police detain a protester against the invasion of Ukraine on Friday in Moscow. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ing rubles to Russia aim to undercut the country’s ability to support its currency in the face of new sanctions on its financial sector. In Russian cities, anxious customers started lining up Sunday in front of ATM’s, hoping to withdraw the money they had deposited in banks, fearful it would run out. The panic spread Monday. To try to restore calm, the Bank of Russia posted a notice on its website: “The volume of bank notes ready for loading into ATMs is more than sufficient. All customer funds on bank accounts are fully preserved and available for any transactions.” Even before the sanctions were announced over the weekend, the ruble had weakened. On Monday it plunged further, with the value of a single ruble dropping to less than 1 cent at one point. As the value of any currency drops, more

people will want to get rid of it by exchanging it for one that is not losing value — and that, in turn, causes its value to drop further. Meanwhile, the emphasis on hiding the war’s true extent was a sign that the Kremlin fears that Russians would disapprove of a violent, full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a country where many millions of Russians have relatives and friends. Even so, more public figures with ties to the state spoke out against the war — including a lawmaker in Russia’s rubber-stamp parliament. Mikhail Matveyev, a Communist lawmaker who had voted to endorse Putin’s recognition of the Russian-backed separatist territories, wrote on Twitter that he had been tricked. “I was voting for peace, and not for war,” he wrote, “and not for Kyiv to be bombed.”

On Monday, Russian oligarchs Oleg Deripaska, an ally of Putin, and Mikhail Fridman, who is on a U.S. sanctions list, also urged an end to the violence. Facing the greatest test yet of its reality-distorting prowess, the Kremlin’s propaganda machine for the moment appeared to be keeping widespread opposition to the war in check. Nevertheless, Russians have been stunned at how quickly the economic impact of the war was being felt. “Those who shout that Putin is great and bravo to him are no longer shouting as loud,” said Lalya Sadykova, owner of a chain of beauty salons in St. Petersburg. “They’re in shock from what is happening, from how quickly prices are changing and how suppliers are stopping deliveries.” The CEO of one of Russia’s biggest electron-

ics retailers, DNS, said last week that a supply crunch had forced his chain to raise prices some 30%. Days earlier, the CEO, Dmitri Alekseyev, had posted on Facebook: “For the life of me I can’t understand why Russia needs a war.” “I understand that the prices in stores provoke frustration,” Alekseyev wrote. “But that’s the reality.” S7, Russia’s second-largest airline, suspended all of its flights to Europe because of airspace closures to Russian companies, an early sign that the cheap and easy travel to the West that middle-class Russians had grown used to could become a thing of the past. Photos of retailers changing or removing their price tags went viral on social media. “We’re all waiting for what happens next,” said Anastasia Baranova, describ-

ing a wave of cancellations last Friday at the hotel she runs in St. Petersburg. “It’s as though the whole country is on pause.” The Kremlin rushed to maintain its narrative, signaling the start of a new and more brutal phase in its long-running crackdown on dissent. The government’s communications regulator slowed down access to Facebook and warned 10 Russian news outlets that their websites could be blocked. The outlets’ declared offense was publishing articles “in which the operation that is being carried out is called an attack, an invasion or a declaration of war.” The main determining factor for what comes next, of course, will be what happens on the battlefield in Ukraine — the longer the war lasts and the greater the loss of life and destruction, the more difficult it will be for the Kremlin to cast the war as a limited operation not directed against the Ukrainian people. Andrei Kortunov, director-general of the Russian International Affairs Council, a research organization close to the Russian government, said he believed that the Kremlin expected the fighting to last no more than two weeks. If Russia forced a capitulation of the Ukrainian army within that time, with limited destruction and limited Russian and civilian casualties, Kortunov said, Putin should be able to count on continuing domestic support. But if the war does not go according to plan, Kortunov cautioned, the country could see “serious political consequences and consequences for the popularity of the leadership.” “Victory will write off a lot — not everything, but a lot,” Kortunov said. “If there is no victory, then there may be some complications.” The Associated Press contributed.

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WORLD & NATION

Friction over transgender inclusion

Churches can give support or deliver rebukes to faithful

By David Crary
Associated Press

For transgender Catholics across the United States, retaining their faith can entail complex calculations. They face rebukes from some fellow Catholics, including many bishops, yet find full acceptance in some premises of the church.

A small but growing number of parishes have formed LGBTQ support groups and welcome transgender people on their own terms. Yet within the past two years, at least six Catholic dioceses have issued guidelines targeting trans people with restrictions and refusing to recognize their gender identity.

“Many of our bishops are anti-science. ... They are cold and cruel,” said Sister Luisa Derouen, a retired nun who has ministered to trans people. “You can’t respect people and deny their existence at the same time.”

The latest policy targeting trans Catholics was issued by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in January. It bars church personnel from using trans people’s preferred pronouns that reflect their gender identity.

Objecting to trans-supportive “gender theory,” the policy stipulates that “all interactions and policies, parishes, organizations, and institutions are to recognize only a person’s biological sex.”

Among other measures, it says parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations in the archdiocese must require people to use bathrooms associated with their birth gender and adhere to dress codes on the same basis.

A broader policy issued in July by the Diocese of Marquette, which encompasses Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, said pastors



JoEllen Musselman, left, and her son, Eli, hug on the campus of St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP

should deny trans, gay and nonbinary Catholics the sacraments — such as baptism and Communion — “unless the person has repented.” It was signed by Bishop John Doerfler.

But in some parishes around the country, a more welcoming face of the church is on display.

Weeks before the Marquette policy emerged, the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Hoboken, New Jersey, celebrated its annual Pride Mass in support of the LGBTQ community. Delivering part of the homily at the invitation of the priest, Alexander Santora, was Christine Zuba, a transgender woman from New Jersey.

“We are not disordered, confused or a fad,” Zuba said, sharing with other worshippers the decades-long journey that led her to come out six years earlier at age 58. “We are not trying to defy God, nor to play God.”

“By staying visible, not only outside these walls but inside our churches, we change hearts and minds, one person at a time,” she concluded. “Once in a while we may get thrown out, but if that happens, we’re not going away. We’re coming right back in.”

Santora, a priest for 40 years, said the other worshippers rose and applauded.

“Our church was opened in 1878,” Santora said. “I wanted Christine to be on that pulpit.”

A lifelong Catholic, Zuba knew from age 4 that she was different. When she came out five decades later, she was grateful that a nearby parish, Saints Peter and Paul in Turnersville, New Jersey, welcomed her. She serves there as a Eucharistic minister.

Yet she knows that much of the Catholic hierarchy, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops,

rejects the concept of gender transition.

“These bishops and priests don’t understand that when they turn someone away, they’re losing parents, children, groups of friends who say this is not the church we want to belong to,” Zuba said.

Lynn Discenza, a 64-year-old transgender woman, grew up in a churchgoing Italian American family in West Hartford, Connecticut, and gave seminary a try before pursuing a career in aerospace design.

She considers herself fortunate, after transitioning two years ago, to be part of a welcoming Catholic church in the area — Saint Patrick-Saint Anthony Church in Hartford. She is a co-leader of its LGBTQ ministry.

Particularly moving, Discenza said, was a Nov. 21 observance marking the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, which commemorates people

killed due to anti-trans violence. She thanked the other worshippers for their support, and they responded with applause.

Discenza hopes that grassroots activism on behalf of greater inclusivity will accelerate as more parishes add LGBTQ ministries.

“The change is going to come from the ground up, and some of the old bishops will die away,” she said.

For young transgender Catholics, the conflicting approaches of individual churches and clergy can pose challenges to both them and their parents.

Eli Musselman of Philadelphia, who turns 19 in March and came out as transgender almost four years ago, said he felt a strong connection with his faith as a boy and many of his friends supported him.

But the pastor of the family’s longtime parish declined to refer to him with mascu-

line pronouns, and he had anxiety attacks in church due to some parishioners’ “nasty looks,” prompting the family to switch to a more welcoming parish.

“A place that had once been a safe haven for me had become a place of dangers,” said Musselman, now a freshman at the Jesuit-run St. Josephs University, where students and most professors have been supportive.

“But since coming out,” he added, “my spirituality has grown. ... I feel whole for the first time in my life.”

“I lost some really good friends,” said his mother, JoEllen Musselman. “I felt I was constantly making apologies to people, and I got tired of that.”

After embracing the faith as a convert, she now has mixed feelings. Though determined to remain active in the church, she remains skeptical about the topmost Catholic leaders.

“They’re flawed,” she said. “If it wasn’t for Christ, the church would collapse because we humans screw everything up.”

Derouen, the retired nun, who has ministered to more than 250 transgender people since she began in 1999, received permission from her superiors in 2014 to write about that work. But that was on condition she not identify herself or her congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Peace. She did so under a pseudonym, which she ultimately abandoned in 2018 to publicly speak out on behalf of trans people and “give witness to their dignity and worth as human beings.”

Derouen said friction over transgender inclusion is likely to intensify.

“There has never been a time in the American church when Catholic hierarchy has had less moral credibility,” she said. “The people in the pews are taking responsibility for doing their own homework and recognizing that we are all God’s people.”



A child is comforted while getting the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in Michigan. New data showed that vaccine is less effective in younger kids. JEFF KOWALSKY/GETTY-AFP 2021

Data: Pfizer vaccine is much less effective for kids ages 5-11

By Apoorva Mandavilli and Noah Weiland
The New York Times

The coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech is much less effective in preventing infection in children ages 5 to 11 than in older adolescents or adults, according to a large new set of data collected by health officials in New York state — a finding that has deep ramifications for these children and their parents.

The Pfizer vaccine is the only COVID-19 shot authorized for that age group in the United States. It still prevents severe illness in the children but offers virtually no protection against infection, even within a month after full immunization, the data, which were collected during the omicron surge, suggest.

The sharp drop in the vaccine’s performance in young children may stem from the fact that they receive one-third the dose given to older children and adults, said researchers and federal officials who have reviewed the data.

The findings, which were posted online Monday, come on the heels of clinical

trial results indicating that the vaccine fared poorly in children ages 2 to 4, who received an even smaller dose.

Experts worried that the news would further dissuade parents from immunizing their children. Other studies have shown the vaccine was not powerfully protective against infection with the omicron variant in adults, either.

“It’s disappointing, but not entirely surprising, given this is a vaccine developed in response to an earlier variant,” said Eli Rosenberg, deputy director for science at the New York State Department of Health, who led the study. “It looks very distressing to see this rapid decline, but it’s again all against omicron.”

Still, he and other public health experts said they recommend the shot for children given the protection against severe disease shown even in the new data set.

In their study, Rosenberg and his colleagues analyzed data from 852,384 newly fully vaccinated children ages 12 to 17 and 365,502 children ages 5 to 11 between Dec. 13, 2021,

and Jan. 31, the height of the omicron surge.

The vaccine’s effectiveness against hospitalization declined to 73% from 85% in the older children. In the younger children, effectiveness dropped to 48% from 100%. But because few children were hospitalized, these estimates have wide margins of error.

The numbers for protection from infection are more reliable. Vaccine effectiveness against infection in the older children decreased to 51% from 66%. But in the younger children, it dropped to just 12% from 68%.

The numbers change drastically between ages 11 and 12. During the week ending Jan. 30, the vaccine’s effectiveness against infection was 67% in 12-year-olds but just 11% in 11-year-olds.

The biological difference between the two ages is likely to be minimal, but while 12-year-old children got 30 micrograms of the vaccine — the same dose given to adults — children who were 11 received only 10 micrograms, said Florian Krammer, an immunologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

UN climate report: Human suffering to get much worse

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

Deadly with extreme weather now, climate change is about to get so much worse. It is likely going to make the world sicker, hungrier, poorer, gloomier and way more dangerous in the next 18 years with an “unavoidable” increase in risks, a new United Nations science report says.

And after that watch out.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report said Monday that if human-caused global warming isn’t limited to just another couple tenths of a degree, an Earth now struck regularly by deadly heat, fires, floods and drought in future decades will degrade in 127 ways, with some being “potentially irreversible.”

“The cumulative scientific evidence is unequivocal: Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health,” says the major report designed to guide world leaders in their efforts to curb climate change. Delaying cuts in heat-trapping carbon emissions and waiting on adapting to warming’s impacts, it warns, “will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”

Today’s children who may still be alive in the year 2100 are going to experience four times more climate extremes than they do now even with only a few more tenths of a degree of warming over today’s heat.

But if temperatures increase nearly 3.4 degrees Fahrenheit from now, they would get five times the floods, storms, drought and heat waves, according to the collection of scientists at the IPCC.

Already at least 3.3 billion people’s daily lives “are highly vulnerable to climate change” and 15 times more



Bruce McDougal watches embers fly over his property in December 2020 as the Bond Fire burns through the Silverado community in Orange County, California. NOAH BERGER/AP

likely to die from extreme weather, the report says. Large numbers of people are being displaced by worsening weather extremes.

And the world’s poor are being hit by far the hardest, it says.

More people are going to die each year from heat waves, diseases, extreme weather, air pollution and starvation because of global warming, the report says. Just how many people die depends on how much heat-trapping gas from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas gets swept into the air and how the world adapts to an ever-hotter world, scientists say.

“Climate change is killing people,” said co-author Helen Adams of King’s College London. “Yes, things are bad, but actually the future depends on us, not the climate.”

With every tenth of a degree of warming, many more people die from heat stress, heart and lung problems from heat and air pollution, infectious diseases, illnesses from mosquitoes and starvation, the authors say.

The report lists mounting dangers to people, plants, animals, ecosystems and economies, with

people at risk in the millions and billions and potential damages in the trillions of dollars. The report highlights people being displaced from homes, places becoming uninhabitable, the number of species dwindling, coral disappearing, ice shrinking, and rising and increasingly oxygen-depleted and acidic oceans.

The panel of more than 200 scientists puts out a series of these massive reports every five to seven years, with this one, the second of the series, devoted to how climate change affects people and the planet. Last August the science panel published a report on the latest climate science and projections for future warming, branded “code red” by the United Nations.

Since the last version of this impacts panel’s report in 2014, “all the risks are coming at us faster than we thought before,” said report co-author Maarten van Aalst, a climate scientist for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, mentioning droughts and storms. “More of it will get really bad much sooner than we thought before.”

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

3 West Coast states to drop indoor masking for schoolchildren

From news services

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Schoolchildren in California, Oregon and Washington will no longer be required to wear masks as part of new indoor mask policies the Democratic governors of all three states announced jointly on Monday.

“With declining case rates and hospitalizations across the West, California, Oregon and Washington are moving together to update their masking guidance,” the governors said in a statement. There are more than 7.5 million school-age children across the three states.

The new guidance will make face coverings a recommendation rather than a requirement at most indoor places in California starting Tuesday and at schools on March 12, regardless of vaccination status. In Washington and Oregon, all the requirements will lift on March 12.

Federal mask requirements will still apply in high-risk indoor settings such as public transportation, airports and taxis. Rules for other high-risk indoor settings could also vary by state.

The milestone comes as much of the country relaxes public health orders, including school mask mandates, in an effort to restore normalcy and boost economic recovery.

The changes reflect a growing sense that the virus is not going away and Americans need to learn to live with it. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, announced Sunday that the state’s masking requirements in schools would be lifted by March 2. New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts and others recently made similar adjustments to ease restrictions for schools.

The announcements signal a turning point that is poignant in its timing, coming almost exactly two years after American cities began shutting down to prevent COVID-19’s spread. California was the first state to announce a shutdown with stay-at-home orders in March 2020, followed soon after by other states.

Japan to ease restrictions: Starting Tuesday, Japan will ease tough coronavirus border controls that have been criticized as xenophobic and damaging to the economy.

The new rules call for 5,000 new entrants per day, instead of the current 3,500, and nowhere near the estimated 64,000 a day that were entering for long-term visits before the pandemic.

The 5,000 daily arrivals also includes Japanese nationals returning to the country, which means hundreds of thousands of foreigners will still struggle to enter.

An estimated 500,000 foreign students, teachers, workers accredited as technical interns and business travelers have been locked out and waiting to get in for nearly two years.

Black History Month: President Joe Biden welcomed Black leaders to the White House on Monday for a jovial Black History Month celebration, where he called on Congress to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court and pass voting rights bills.

“I know progress can be slow and frustrating,” Biden said. “But I also know what’s possible if we work together, if we keep the faith, if we remember — changes and charges that are passed down to us.”

About 150 people includ-



Australian floods: A woman carries a baby as people use boats to travel through flooding Monday in Lismore, Australia. Heavy rain brought record flooding to parts of the country’s east coast. Eight people, all from Queensland state, were killed and parts of Brisbane were left underwater. Lismore, in New South Wales state, is bracing for its worst flooding on record. **JASON O’BRIEN/AAP**

ing members of the Congressional Black Caucus, state and local elected officials, the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and other community leaders, gathered. Members of Biden’s Cabinet who are Black and other administration officials stood on stage as Biden called on them by name to express his gratitude.

He was joined by first lady Jill Biden, and Vice President Kamala Harris, who said that the group was gathered at a time when America’s democratic principles have come under threat as Ukraine is attacked by Russia.

Indian Child Welfare Act: The Supreme Court has agreed to review a case involving a federal law that gives Native Americans preference in adoptions of Native children.

The high court said Monday it would take the case that presents the most significant legal challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act since it was passed

in 1978. The law has long been championed by Native American leaders as a means of preserving their families and culture.

The law gives Native American families priority in foster care and adoption proceedings involving Native children, and it places reporting and other requirements on states. A federal appeals court in April upheld the law and the authority of Congress to enact it.

But the judges also found some of the law’s provisions unconstitutional, including preferences for placing Native American children with Native adoptive families and in Native foster homes.

The case won’t be argued until after the high court begins its new term in October.

SKorea removes measure: South Korea will no longer require people to show proof of vaccination or negative tests to enter any indoor

space starting Tuesday, removing a key preventive measure during an omicron surge that’s elevating hospitalizations and deaths.

The Health Ministry’s announcement on Monday came as the country set another single-day record in COVID-19 deaths with 114. More than 710 COVID-19 patients were in critical or serious conditions, up from 200 to 300 in mid-February, while nearly half of the country’s intensive care units designated for COVID-19 were occupied.

Park Hyang, a senior health ministry official, said rescinding the “anti-epidemic pass” would free more health workers to help monitor nearly 800,000 virus patients with mild or moderate symptoms who have been asked to isolate at home to save hospital space.

Vatican trial: Prosecutors in the Vatican’s fraud and extortion trial dismissed defense objections as a “tempest in a teapot” on

Monday as they defended their investigation and insisted they had turned over all evidence needed for the trial to open.

Judge Giuseppe Pignatone is to rule Tuesday on seven month’s worth of motions to dismiss the charges made by lawyers for the 10 people accused of financial crimes derived from the Holy See’s 350 million euro investment in a London real estate venture.

Prosecutor Alessandro Diddi insisted on the worthiness of the case going forward, noting that the latest estimates indicate the Holy See lost 217 million euros on the deal, much of it donations from the faithful.

Diddi’s office has accused the Holy See’s longtime money manager, Italian brokers and lawyers of fleecing the Vatican of tens of millions of euros in fees and of then extorting 15 million euros from the Vatican to get full ownership of the property. The 10 suspects deny wrongdoing.

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BUSINESS

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Justices grapple with EPA power over gas emissions

Case could hamper the Biden administration's plans to fight climate change

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court wrestled Monday with the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to curb greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's power plants, a case that could hamstring the Biden administration's plans to combat climate change.

The justices heard more than two hours of arguments over whether to limit the EPA's power to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from electric utilities on the same day a U.N. science report painted a dire picture of global climate change.

A major report from a U.N. panel of hundreds of scientists detailed how climate change — caused by the burning of coal, oil and natural gas — is already taking a deadly toll and will get worse.

Just how much worse depends on how quickly the world cuts is carbon emissions, with coal being the biggest polluter, the report said.

At the high court, the justices took up

an appeal from 19 mostly Republican-led states and coal companies that contend the EPA has only narrow authority to regulate carbon output.

Some conservative justices appeared skeptical of broad EPA authority over carbon dioxide emissions, but there could be obstacles to issuing a major ruling. Among these are arguments from power plant operators serving 40 million people that call on the court to maintain the companies' flexibility to reduce emissions while maintaining reliable service.

President Joe Biden has pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade, but he has so far failed to win congressional approval of climate change proposals contained in his Build Back Better plan.

A new policy to regulate carbon productions from power plants is not expected before the end of the year, Elizabeth Prelogar, Biden's top Supreme Court lawyer, told the justices Monday.

But the court did not appear interested in Prelogar's argument that it should dismiss

the case because there is no current EPA plan in place to deal with carbon output from power plants.

Environmental groups have worried that the court could preemptively undermine whatever plan Biden's team develops to address power plant emissions.

A broad ruling by the court also could weaken regulatory efforts that extend well beyond the environment, including consumer protections, workplace safety and public health. Several conservative justices have criticized what they see as the unchecked power of federal agencies.

Those concerns were evident in the court's orders throwing out two Biden administration policies aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Last summer, the court's 6-3 conservative majority ended a pause on evictions over unpaid rent.

In January, the same six justices blocked a requirement that workers at large employers be vaccinated or test regularly and wear a mask on the job.

A decision is expected by late June.

Discovery selects CBS exec as new CNN leader

By Stephen Battaglio
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — Discovery Inc. made it official Monday that veteran news and late night producer Chris Licht will take over the reins of CNN in May.

Licht will join the company after Discovery completes its acquisition of CNN WarnerMedia, serving as its chairman and chief executive officer.

Licht has been with CBS since 2011, where he was executive vice president of special programming and oversaw "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." His career in TV news includes stints at NBC, where he created the MSNBC program "Morning Joe." Before taking over "Colbert," Licht developed "CBS This Morning."

Licht will report directly to Discovery Chief Executive David Zaslav.

"I have known and admired Chris for more than 15 years and strongly believe he is the best person to lead CNN Global as part of Warner Bros. Discovery," Zaslav said in a statement.

Zaslav noted Licht's experience as a producer in local, cable and national TV news. He will now be in charge of a global news organization with 4,000 employees.

"I'm honored to have this opportunity, especially at such an important time for our country and the world," Licht said in the statement. "CNN has a rich and storied legacy, and I both promise to uphold it and build upon it."

The appointment comes during a period of upheaval at CNN, which was shaken by the exit of Jeff Zucker, who was forced to resign Feb. 2 following a nine-year run after failing to report a romantic relationship with Allison Gollust, his longtime aide and the network's head of communications and marketing. Gollust also resigned.



It's been two years since many businesses sent their workers home. Above, buildings in Manhattan. JOHN TAGGART/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Welcome back to the office?

Executives express hope with plans to bring workers back 2 years after start of pandemic

By Emma Goldberg
The New York Times

The two-year mark since many U.S. businesses sent their office workers home is approaching, and some antsy executives have delivered a long-delayed message: Return-to-office plans are real this time (fingers crossed). Managers are hanging up welcome balloons and dusting off monitors with a sense of confidence. Coronavirus tests are widely available, including some provided by employers. Many businesses know the majority of their employees are vaccinated. Many workers have recovered from omicron and are resuming indoor social activities.

Executives are entering the next zone of return-to-office planning with what psychologists call "stress-related growth." They have endured a sustained period of tumult. They are emerging feeling hopeful, equipped with new insights about how to respond when COVID-19 cases surge and how to keep workers safe while busi-

nesses are open: by encouraging testing and imposing vaccine rules.

"There's a very strong feeling we're coming out on the other side," said Keith McFall, chief operating officer of staffing provider Express Employment Professionals, based in Oklahoma City, which reopened its renovated office Feb. 7 after scaling back a phased reopening that had started in July and then delaying an intended January return.

And there is a sense of near-glee among some managers as their return-to-office plans cement: "It was like back-to-school week, quite frankly," said Chris Glennon, vice president of global real estate and workplace at Intuit, who visited the company's San Francisco office last week. Intuit fully reopened its offices on a voluntary basis Jan. 18 and is continuing to weigh timing for a required return.

Glennon noted that the company's consulting physician had recently started a call by saying he had nothing but good news to share.

"I said, 'Hallelujah, it's the first time we've been able to say that,'" he added.

American Express told workers that they would be encouraged to return to the New York office starting Tuesday, followed by a

broader return March 15. Meta, formerly Facebook, is starting its hybrid return to the office March 28. Microsoft said that starting Monday, workers would have 30 days to adopt working preferences with their managers, with the expectation that most would be able to work from home up to half the time, and Ford Motor Co. said in April that it would adopt a hybrid work program in which many employees can be partly in person and partly remote.

Office occupancy across the country is creeping up after a January dip: It was at an average of 31% of pre-COVID-19 levels across 10 major cities this month, up from 23% in early January and down from a pandemic peak of 40% in the first week of December, according to security firm Kastle Systems.

But nonprofessional indoor activities have picked up more quickly, including dining and entertainment, leading executives to guess that the barriers to bringing their employees back might not be related to just health and safety.

For workers struggling to prepare for the office — especially those with caregiving responsibilities or children too young to be vaccinated — the sprint feels premature.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Shell announces exit from Russia

LONDON — Shell says it's pulling out of Russia as President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine costs the country's all-important energy industry foreign investment and expertise.

Shell announced its intention Monday to exit its joint ventures with Gazprom and related entities, including its 27.5% stake in the Sakhalin-II liquefied natural gas facility in the waters off Russia's east coast, its 50% stake in the Salym Petroleum Development and the Gydan energy venture.

Shell also intends to end its involvement in the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project.

The move comes as day after rival BP announced plans to shed its almost 20% stake in Rosneft, which is controlled by the Russian state.

Toyota factories halt production

TOKYO — Toyota is suspending production at all 28 lines of its 14 plants in Japan starting Tuesday because of a "system malfunction" that a domestic supplier suspects is a cyberattack.

Kojima Industries Corp., based in Toyota city in central Japan, said Monday the problem could be a cyberattack as an error was detected in its computer server system.

As a result, the company said its system could not communicate properly with Toyota or monitor production, although there was nothing physically wrong with the production equipment.

Kojima spokesman Tomohiro Takayama said the company was investigating and working to fix the problem but was unclear when production could resume.

Target starting hourly wage may reach \$24

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Workers at Target stores and distribution centers in places like New York, where competition for finding and hiring staff is the fiercest, could see starting wages as high as \$24 an hour this year.

The Minneapolis-based discount retailer said Monday that it will adopt minimum wages that range from \$15 to \$24 an hour, with the highest pay going to hires in the most competitive markets. It currently pays a universal starting wage of \$15 an hour.

The wage range is part of a company plan to spend an additional \$300 million on its labor force this year that will also include broader, faster access to health care cover-

age for its hourly workers.

"The market has changed," Target CEO Brian Cornell said. "We want to continue to have an industry-leading position."

Target set a new marker for the retail industry back in 2017 when it announced it would increase hourly wages to \$15 by 2020. But U.S. labor-market dynamics have changed during the pandemic, with many employers facing severe worker shortages. And many of Target's rivals are now paying a minimum of \$15 per hour or more.

Target, which has roughly 1,900 stores and 350,000 employees in the U.S., noted that the turnover rate among its employees is now lower than before the pandemic. The retailer also said that it was able to exceed its goal of hiring 100,000 seasonal workers

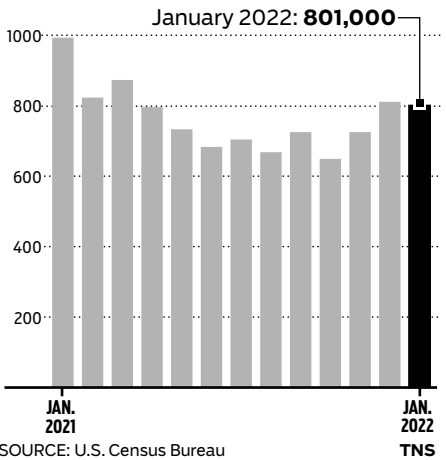
at its stores and 30,000 in its supply chain network across the country throughout the 2021 holiday season. But Target realized it needs to have an even more localized approach to wages. It said it is still doing its analysis and declined to name the areas that will be getting the highest starting wage.

When Target first announced in 2017 it would pay \$15 an hour by 2020, it was one of the first major retailers to do so. But during the pandemic, a number of rivals like Best Buy followed suit, with some surpassing Target. Costco raised its minimum hourly wages for workers from \$16 to \$17 last fall.

Amazon's starting wage is \$15 per hour, and the e-commerce giant's nationwide average starting wage for jobs in transportation and fulfillment is \$18 an hour.

New residential sales

New houses sold, seasonally adjusted, scale in thousands



BUSINESS



Luigi Boni, a 96-year-old retiree, reads from a newspaper article about the “Adopt-a-Bill” initiative last month in Florence, Italy. DOMENICO STINELLIS/AP

Italian city fundraises to pay retirees’ rising energy bills

By Maria Grazia Murru
Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy — Florence is famed for its contributions to Italian art, architecture and cuisine. But these days, local leaders in the city regarded as the birthplace of the Renaissance are concerned with more mundane matters: paying the bills.

Amid soaring energy costs across Europe, officials at Palazzo Vecchio — the building that serves as Florence’s city hall as well as a museum — have teamed up with a local nonprofit to help fixed-income retirees keep their power on through an “Adopt-a-Bill” fundraising campaign.

“Florence is a city where you live well, and for this reason, too, people live very long,” Mayor Dario Nardella said.

A significant number of Florence’s retirees, however, live on less than \$10,200 a year and can’t afford to make ends meet with an expected 55% increase in home electricity costs and a 42% hike in residential gas bills, he said.

Widower Luigi Boni, 96, confirms that. He says

that by the end of February, he will have emptied his bank account and spent his monthly pension check of under 600 euros (\$680) before covering utilities.

“Either I eat or I pay the rent,” Boni said.

To assist him and others among Florence’s estimated 30,000 residents over age 65 and living alone, the city administration launched the fundraising campaign with the nonprofit Montedomini Foundation, which runs projects aimed at helping the city’s retirees.

The campaign raised more than \$37,000 in its first few days. Private citizens, including Florentines living abroad, made more than 200 donations, according to the city’s welfare counselor, Sara Funaro.

“Our goal is to raise funds to make sure that every elderly person who asks us for help can receive help to cover the increase in bills due to (energy costs) increasing,” Funaro said.

Spiking energy prices are raising utility bills — and driving a record rise in inflation — from Poland to the United Kingdom. In response, governments across Europe are rushing

to pass aid for residents and businesses as utility companies pass on costs to consumers.

In Turkey, where the economic pressure is extreme and has fueled protests, Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir are among opposition-led municipalities with similar “Adopt-a-Bill” initiatives. Istanbul’s municipal website says about \$3.6 million was donated since 2020, covering 320,000 utility bills.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi’s government has passed measures valued at more than \$9 billion to help blunt the impact of soaring energy prices for businesses and individuals.

The government’s most recent decree, issued last month, also had a forward-looking component: it looked to accelerate Italy’s transition to more renewable energy sources, particularly solar power, to make the country less dependent on imported supplies.

The Italian mayors’ association has said the government’s response has so far been insufficient to help cities cope with hundreds of millions of euros in additional energy costs.

To blunt sanctions, Russia can turn to cryptocurrency

By Emily Flitter
and David Yaffe-Bellany
The New York Times

When the United States barred Americans from doing business with Russian banks, oil and gas developers and other companies in 2014, after the country’s invasion of Crimea, the hit to Russia’s economy was swift and immense. Economists estimated that sanctions imposed by Western nations cost Russia \$50 billion a year.

Since then, the global market for cryptocurrencies and other digital assets has ballooned. That is bad news for enforcers of sanctions and good news for Russia.

Last week, the Biden administration enacted fresh sanctions on Russia over the conflict in Ukraine, aiming to thwart its access to foreign capital. But Russian entities are preparing to blunt some of the worst effects by making deals with anyone around the world willing to work with them, experts said. And, they say, those entities can then use digital currencies to bypass the control points that governments rely on — mainly transfers of money by banks — to block deal execution.

“Russia has had a lot of time to think about this specific consequence,” said Michael Parker, a former federal prosecutor who now heads the anti-money laundering and sanctions practice at Washington, D.C., law firm Ferrari & Associates. “It would be naive to think that they haven’t gamed out exactly this scenario.”

Sanctions are some of the most powerful tools the United States and European countries have to influence the behavior of nations they don’t consider allies. The United States in particular is able to use sanctions as a diplomatic tool because the dollar is the world’s



To evade sanctions, all Russia has to do is trade digital currency without touching the dollar. Above, the Kremlin Embankment. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE NEW YORK TIMES

reserve currency and used in payments worldwide. But American government officials are increasingly aware of the potential for cryptocurrencies to lessen the impact of sanctions and are stepping up their scrutiny of digital assets.

To apply sanctions, a government makes a list of people and businesses its citizens must avoid. Anyone caught engaging with a member of the list faces heavy fines. But the real key to any effective sanctions program is the global financial system. Banks around the world play a major role in enforcement: They see where money comes from and where it is bound, and anti-money laundering laws require them to block transactions with sanctioned entities and report what they see to authorities. But if banks are the eyes and ears of governments, the explosion of digital currencies is blinding them.

Banks have to abide by “know your customer” rules, which include verifying their clients’ identities. But exchanges that facilitate the buying and selling of cryptocurrencies and digital assets are rarely as good at tracking their customers as banks are, even though they are supposed to follow the

same rules. In October, the U.S. Treasury Department warned that cryptocurrencies posed an increasingly serious threat to the U.S. sanctions program.

Should it choose to evade sanctions, Russia has multiple cryptocurrency-related tools at its disposal, experts said. All it needs is to find ways to trade without touching the dollar.

The Russian government is developing its own central bank digital currency, a so-called digital ruble that it hopes to use to trade directly with other countries willing to accept it without first converting it into dollars. Hacking techniques like ransomware could help Russian actors steal digital currencies and make up revenue lost to sanctions.

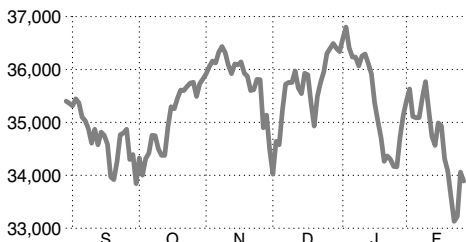
And while cryptocurrency transactions are recorded on the underlying blockchain, making them transparent, new tools developed in Russia can help mask the origin of such transactions. That would allow businesses to trade with Russian entities without detection.

There is a precedent for these kinds of workarounds. Iran and North Korea are among countries that have used digital currencies to mitigate the effects of West-

MARKET RUNDOWN

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

	DOW 33,892.60 -166.15		10-YR T-BOND 1.83% -.15		GOLD \$1,899.40 +12.90
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	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	33,892.60	-166.15	-6.73%
DOW Trans.	15,268.45	+61.24	-7.34%
DOW Util.	942.54	+4.29	-3.90%
NASDAQ Comp.	16,313.89	-114.06	-4.95%
S&P 500	4,373.94	-10.71	-8.23%
S&P 400	2,661.48	-.12	-6.35%
Wilshire 5000	44,259.22	-.91	-8.67%
Russell 2000	2,048.09	+7.16	-8.78%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	95.72	91.59	+27.27%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.40	4.47	+18.02%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.80	2.73	+25.52%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,899.40	1,886.50	+3.93%
Silver (oz)	24.36	24.00	+4.43%

Foreign Exchange			Money Rates		
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3416	.7454	Prime rate	3.25	3.25
Canada	.7882	1.2687	3-mo. T-Bill	0.38	0.38
China	.1585	6.3093	6-mo. T-Bill	0.69	0.66
Euro	1.1223	.8910	5-yr T-Note	1.71	1.85
Japan	.008704	114.89	10-yr T-Note	1.83	1.97
Mexico	.048738	20.5179	30-yr T-Bond	2.17	2.31

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	14,461.02	-106.21	-.73% -8.96%
London	7,458.25	-31.21	-.42% +1.00%
Hong Kong	22,713.02	-54.16	-.24% -2.93%
Nikkei	26,526.82	+50.32	+1.19% -7.87%

Stocks of Local Interest			
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.86	+1.20	-30.7
AT&T Inc (T)	23.69	-.22	-3.7
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	123.34	+2.28	-14.3
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.25	-.21	-4.0
Amphenol Corp (APH)	76.01	-.84	-13.1
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	6.96	-.06	-11.0
Apple Inc (AAPL)	165.12	+2.7	-7.0
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.87	+3.8	-10.0
Bank of America (BAC)	44.20	-.82	-.7
Barnes Group (B)	46.45	-.30	-.3
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2172.25	-109.21	-9.5
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	68.67	-.13	+10.1
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	103.65	-.65	+5
Carnival Corp (CCL)	20.33	-.77	+1.0
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	44.88	-.35	-17.3
Charter Communic (CHTR)	601.78	+6.2	-7.7
Cigna Corp (CI)	237.78	+4.94	+3.5
Citigroup (C)	59.23	-2.75	-1.9
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.76	-.31	-7.1
DiDi Global Inc (DIDI)	4.10	+0.1	-17.7
Disney (DIS)	148.46	-1.07	-4.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	115.54	-1.41	-9.3
Ethan Allen (ETD)	26.06	+5.1	-.9
Eversource Energy (ES)	81.80	-.01	-10.1
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	78.42	+5.8	+28.2
Fst Horizon Natl (FHN)	23.48	+5.23	+43.8
Ford Motor (F)	17.56	-.27	-15.5
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.00	+7.2	+15.4
Gen Dynamics (GD)	234.45	+6.47	+12.5
Gen Electric (GE)	95.51	-.86	+1.1
Grab Holdings Ltd A (GRAB)	5.76	-.04	-19.2
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	69.48	-.87	+6
Honeywell Intl (HON)	189.75	+1.19	-9.0
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.56	+1.5	-2.3
Imperial Petroleum (IMPP)	2.37	+2.7	+10.7
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.46	-.38	-11.3
Intel Corp (INTC)	47.70	-.01	-7.4
JPMorgan Chase (JPM)	141.80	-6.17	-10.5
Kaman (KAMN)	43.41	+3.06	+6
Keycorp (KEY)	25.07	-.03	+8.4
Kimco Realty (KIM)	23.53	-.89	-4.5
Kinder Morgan Inc (KMI)	17.40	+3.3	+9.7
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.01	-.52	-13.8
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.42	-1.71	-1.2
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	28.98	+2.63	-23.8
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	44.29	-.83	-1.3
Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	211.03	+5.5	-37.3
MetLife Inc (MET)	67.55	-1.01	+8.1
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	298.79	+1.48	-11.2
Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.69	+1.00	-67.7
Novartis AG (NVS)	87.46	-.17	...
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	243.85	+2.28	-17.1
Occid Petl (OXY)	43.73	+4.99	+50.8
Opendoor Technol (OPEN)	8.35	-.09	-42.8
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	78.33	-.18	-10.0
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	11.85	+3.8	-34.9
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	21.08	-.09	+18.3
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	46.94	-.78	-20.5
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.98	+0.7	-24.9
Plug Power Inc (PLUG)	25.29	+2.70	-10.4
Prudential FncI (PRU)	111.66	-1.14	+3.2
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.83	-.04	-2.8
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	102.70	+4.58	+19.3
Rogers Corp (ROG)	273.00	-.10	...
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	74.97	-.40	-8.6
Sea Ltd (SE)	145.60	+8.14	-34.9
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	11.45	+7.8	-27.6
Sthwstn Energy (SWN)	4.99	+0.3	+7.1
Square Inc (SQ)	127.50	+7.68	-21.1
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	162.70	+8.1	-13.7
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	23.84	-.11	-1.9
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.52	+.01	-10.6
Terex Corp (TEX)	41.28	-.40	-6.1
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	870.43	+60.56	-17.6
Travelers Cos (TRV)	171.83	-1.61	+9.8
Uber Technologies (UBER)	36.03	+1.05	-14.1
United Rentals (URI)	321.62	+5.31	-3.2
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	475.87	+1.12	-5.2
Viatis Inc (VTRS)	11.01	-3.53	-18.6
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	240.62	-7.63	-19.0
Voya Financial (VOYA)	67.35	-1.20	+1.6
Webster Financial (WBS)	60.21	+3.0	+7.8
Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	53.37	-.74	+11.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1050.20	-6.27	+3.6
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	59.26	+6.6	+20.1
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	72.68	+.93	-6.1
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	19.71	-.35	-12.9

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Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City is right to revamp Brainard area

It is gratifying to see how Suburbanites to Preserve Brainard Field for general aviation so passionately seek to keep their plaything. They have no regard for the competency of the city of Hartford to judge what is in the best interest of the city. They attempt to besmirch the city by positing the involvement of the hated MDC which, of course, should be hated for providing water and sewer services for most of the Capital Region. If you wish to get a sense of why a general aviation airport is not the highest and best use of the Brainard property, take a drive to the intersection of I-91 and 20 in Windsor and Windsor Locks and see the development triggered by the intersection of these two highways. Or check out the plans for the Rent-schler Field site in East Hartford. Brainard is situated at the confluence of I-91, I-84 and Route 2. It also borders the Connecticut River, a resource that Hartford has never been able to commercially develop. The potential of this property to generate tax dollars for both Hartford and the state is obvious. And the combination of housing, light industry and distribution centers, along with the possibility of a marina, would be a boon to both city and state.

John W. Lemega, West Hartford

All opinions should be allowed in Courant

On Feb 20, Jill Espelin commented in a letter to the editor that giving Bob Stefanowski a mouthpiece in the Opinion section was not something she would expect of the Courant. I believe that newspapers should be reporting the good, bad, ugly and everything in between. While I'm not a Stefanowski fan, I do think he has the same right as Ned Lamont to express his opinion in the Courant.

Susi Byers, Tolland

Not easy being a Republican in Connecticut

I found it interesting to read the story on Democrats in rural America [Page 6, Feb. 20, "Hatred for Dems 'just unbelievable'"]. I found myself identifying with these Democrats as a Republican in a Blue state like Connecticut. I am uncomfortable putting a Republican sign on my lawn or telling others about my party affiliation for fear of being shunned. It's sad the political divide we have in our country. We have so much to learn from each other.

Bob Blomberg, Simsbury

Smart move by Lamont to visit Israel

Gov. Ned Lamont's time in office has been marked by aggressive efforts to bring jobs to Connecticut. Now he is in Israel to do just that. Israel is home to one of the most innovative and vibrant technology hubs in the world. With over 6,000 active start-ups and an economy dominated by industrial high-tech and entrepreneurship, Israel has earned its nickname of The Startup Nation. The governor's mission is to market Connecticut to those companies. Any successes will benefit all of us. Thank you, Gov. Lamont and your team.

Norman Sondheimer, Avon

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Please send us your true stories, written in your voice.



Love Etc. Stories from the heart — your essays about emotional life in the 21st century.



Why I... In which you explain why you feel so strongly about something in Connecticut.



First Person: In which you explain a deeply private issue against the backdrop of social and economic forces.



Living Here: What is it really like to live in Connecticut?

We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren't heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.

OP-ED

Wastewater surveillance a vital tool in tracking diseases

By Jordan Peccia and Sten H. Vermund

The U.S. government website for free COVID-19 home test kits, covidtests.gov, is up and running. While not as sensitive as PCR-based testing, these rapid test kits are excellent for diagnosing higher viral loads and communicable COVID-19 infections. At-home tests are also becoming more available at pharmacies, with the costs covered by insurance. All this convenience means that home kits could soon replace the existing COVID-19 testing site public infrastructure and become the primary way for people to determine if their onset of symptoms is COVID-19 or just the common cold. This shift from high-volume public COVID-19 testing programs to at-home testing will significantly reduce our ability to track the future spread of COVID-19. When a person goes to a COVID-19 testing location, results that include that person's name and address are shared with state and local health departments. These compiled testing data are a leading indicator of hospitalizations and deaths, and the rise and fall of positive case numbers help guide public health decisions surrounding COVID-19. Greater use of home COVID-19 kits means that conventional testing data to track outbreaks will be incomplete and potentially unreliable. We will still track hospitaliza-



Boxes of Siemens Healthineers COVID-19 test kits at the RR Donnelley supply chain facility Jan. 21 in Houston. **SCOTT DALTON/AP**

tions and deaths, but both are latter indicators of infection. By the time they rise, community transmission is well underway. Wastewater surveillance of COVID-19 infections provides a solution to the surveillance problem. Coronavirus infections are shed in stool; thus, a sample from treatment plant sludge can contain SARS-CoV-2 viral genetic material from the entire population that plant serves. At the beginning of this pandemic, wastewater surveillance tools were in a nascent stage. Almost two years later, the technology is significantly more advanced. Wastewater concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants are now easily measured and considered a reflection of the infectious status of a community. With daily sampling, they

can indicate the same outbreak trends as a well-operated COVID-19 testing program — but with several advantages. Wastewater catches everything. It is not affected by individual behaviors and timetables, such as the reductions seen in testing during holidays and weekends. Sludge also harbors virus from both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. Wastewater analysis can accurately predict hospital admissions at least a week before they happen and can predict potential community outbreaks before comparable COVID-19 testing data is even compiled. Wastewater surveillance is very low-cost. In our city of New Haven, more than 200,000 residents contribute to the local wastewater treatment plant.

A SARS-CoV-2 concentration derived from a daily wastewater test, which costs about as much as a single COVID-19 test, can reflect the status of all 200,000 residents. Recently, wastewater data gathered in some northeastern cities provided the first indication that the omicron outbreak has peaked. We hear this often: "Due to the emergence of variants and poor vaccination coverage across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for a long time." New viruses will also emerge in the future. In the spring of 2020, there was a clear reason for implementing the most far-reaching disease surveillance efforts the world has ever seen, no matter the cost. As this system gives way to home test kits, we should learn from the pandemic and build a better framework for an early-warning system to track COVID-19 (and other infectious diseases) through low-cost wastewater surveillance. It was a vital tool to help the world control polio and remains a vital tool during this COVID-19 pandemic; let's not turn our backs on it now.

Jordan Peccia is the Thomas E. Golden professor of environmental engineering at Yale and studies human exposure to microbes in buildings and wastewater-based epidemiology. Sten H. Vermund is the Anna M.R. Lauder professor of public health and dean, Yale School of Public Health, and studies global infectious disease epidemiology.

OP-ED

Good can happen when we focus on the greater good

By Jason Rojas

As we start a new legislative session, I cannot help but think about the way the world has changed over the past year. A year ago, my first session as majority leader of the State House, I gave welcoming remarks to a largely empty chamber. This year, I was surrounded by my colleagues and a few invited guests. A year ago, we were just beginning a state, and nationwide, vaccination effort. This year, 77.4% of eligible Connecticut residents are fully vaccinated from COVID-19. A year ago, 8.1% of individuals were on unemployment. This year, 5.8% are. We have come a long way. And as we embark on this new legislative session, I am full of hope and optimism about what we will accomplish. Even though we are beating back COVID, there's still so much work to do as the pandemic continues to impact families, schools and businesses directly and indirectly. In addition, we need to continue Connecticut's rebound by investing in long-term growth strategies including supporting Connecticut's workers and local businesses.

The work has already begun. On Feb. 10, in the House, we extended a limited number of health and safety protections to ensure that we continue to follow the science and take care of our neighbors as COVID-19 transitions from pandemic to endemic stages. My legislative colleagues and I know our state must have the capability to adapt and respond swiftly should another deadly variant emerge. But as vaccination rates have increased, it is also important that we recognize that in most settings we have already returned to a new normal and will continue to do so. There will be no shortage of issues that our constituents, our school communities and our business community expect us to address. Beyond addressing the direct health impacts of COVID-19, we will work to address many economic challenges: disruptions to the supply chain, workforce shortages and inflationary pressures brought on by the rebounding



House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, D-East Hartford, speaks Feb. 9 during the opening session of the state legislature at the state Capitol in Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

economy. We are working with businesses large and small to ensure they have the supplies they need and with our schools to ensure they are educating students for the jobs of tomorrow. This is the type of work that we need to always keep pushing on to grow Connecticut. Our nonpartisan budget analysts have forecasted a healthy budget surplus and in this second year of the budget, we can make historic and vitally needed investments. I am hopeful that these resources will be used to build a more responsive pediatric mental health care system, recruit and retain health care workers, invest in our schools, and make Connecticut more affordable for working families. Importantly, we must also continue to pay down long-term debt and maintain our bipartisan fiscal practices. In addition to these budgetary questions, we'll have a chance to further explore

answers to challenging questions, as the work we will do in the coming months will build upon last session's efforts. What sustainability measures can we implement to fight climate change to ensure our kids have a future? How will we strengthen access to reproductive rights and work toward reproductive justice and freedom? How do we expand access to the ballot box? What will we do to make our criminal justice system more just? How will we expand access to high-quality, affordable health care? At the State Capitol in a chamber where members have ideologies that span the political spectrum, all these issues are sure to result in disagreements and differences of opinions. We must resist the urge to play to partisan bases and instead work to bridge our divides and do the right thing for the great people of Connecticut. I'm proud that we have leaders on both sides of the aisle who are willing and committed to collaborating and

negotiating. Our democracy's strength comes from this cooperation and builds residents' confidence in the legislative process. As I enter my 14th legislative session, I know what good can happen when we focus on the greater good. We have a responsibility to preserve the public's ability to engage in the legislative process while also protecting public health and safety. Even as we face a third legislative session with the impact of COVID-19 in our lives, I'm grateful the Capitol complex is open to the public, albeit with some short-term limitations. We are leveraging the knowledge we gained from the 2021 session and will continue to use the virtual resources at our disposal to conduct the people's business in the people's House. It is a privilege to serve the 9th District and the state of Connecticut.

State Rep. Jason Rojas is Democratic House majority leader.

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Real Estate

Rentals

WEST HARTFORD
WAITING LIST OPENING
THE RESIDENCES AT 540 NEW PARK

The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for apartments located at 540 New
Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110.
Eligibility for these units is subject to
household income limits and other
eligibility criteria under the federal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
(LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum
Income Limits:

1 PERSON - \$43,860
2 PERSONS - \$50,100
3 PERSONS - \$56,340
4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Rents will range from approximately
\$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and
\$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit
depending on household income level
(prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply
between February 16, 2022 and May
17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may
apply by:

- Submitting a pre-application online
at www.540NewPark.com; or
- Requesting a paper pre-application
be mailed to the applicant, which
must be returned by mail to
ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New
Park Waitlist 80 Shield Street, West
Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark
date between February 16, 2022 and
May 10, 2022, and received no later
than May 17, 2022; or
- Requesting an appointment during
the application period if assistance
is needed to complete the pre-
application. Please note: Assistance
with completing the application will
be offered by appointment ONLY due
to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a
Reasonable Accommodation, please
call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family
will be accepted; duplicate pre-
applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible
through any computer, tablet or smart
phone. After successfully completing
the pre-application, you may print the
confirmation of successful completion
of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park will
use a Random-Draw Lottery System
to determine the waiting list order
from all applications.

The Residences at 540 New Park
does not discriminate in admission or
access to its housing or programs. Any
eligible individual with disabilities will
be served. Those who have visual or
hearing impairments will be provided
with the necessary information to
understand and participate in the
program. Efforts will be coordinated
to comply with the nondiscrimination
requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
This is an equal opportunity housing
development. www.540NewPark.com

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

LEGAL NOTICE

Solicitation of Proposals — Modernization
Consulting & Grant Administration Services
The Vernon Housing Authority is soliciting
proposals for modernization and grant
administration consulting services. Services
include technical services required to ad-
minister all aspects of its State and Federal
Modernization Programs.

This will also include Section 3, Fair Housing,
Equal Opportunity, Davis-Bacon Wage Rate
Monitoring, and periodic construction
inspections.

Program design and specifications are not
included as part of this Request for Proposal.
All activities will be performed in strict
accordance with all guidelines and require-
ments established by the U.S. Department
of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.)
and the State of Connecticut Department
of Housing (DOH), and Connecticut Housing
Finance Authority (CHFA) as they may apply.
Procurement and contract award are subject
to all applicable Federal, State, and local
laws/regulations. Request for Proposal docu-
ments may be obtained at the offices of the
Vernon Housing Authority, 21 Court Street,
Suite 114, Vernon, CT 06066. Proposals will
also be on the Department of Administration
Services (DAS) website, Vernon Housing
Authority's website and the Town of Vernon's
website. Proposals are due not later than
10:00 a.m. on March 18, 2022. The Vernon
Housing Authority is an Equal opportunity
employer and does not discriminate against
the handicap/disabled.
3/1 & 3/7/22 7159006

FLAVOR Every Thursday.

Connecticut

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with City of Hartford Municipal
Code Section 29-16, the Hartford Police
Department is in possession of unclaimed
found property for which the owner cannot
be located.

If you believe that some of this property is
yours, phone the HPD Property Room at 860
757-4180 weekdays 7:AM to 2:30 PM. Be
prepared to provide a detailed description of
the property, the circumstances of its loss,
and proof of ownership as necessary.
Positive identification is required before prop-
erty will be released. If not claimed, items
may be sold at public auction, destroyed,
donated, or released to a finder.
1/4-3/29/2022 7112251

LEGAL NOTICE FARMINGTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY TOWN OF FARMINGTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 2022-2023 SEWER OPERATING BUDGET 2022-2023 RESIDENTIAL SANITARY SEWER ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Farmington
Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a
public hearing on Wednesday, March 9, 2022
at 7:00 p.m., at the Water Pollution Control
Facility Conference Room, 1 Westerberg
Drive, Farmington, CT, on the proposed
2022-2023 Sewer Operating Budget for the
Wastewater Treatment Plant and the residen-
tial sanitary sewer assessments.

The proposed budget sets the user rate for
residential customers at \$326.00 per year
and the user rate for commercial customers
at \$2.82 per hundred cubic feet used in
calendar year 2021. These rates reflect a
0.0% increase over the current rate billed
in budget year 2021-2022. The annual
sewer service charge for elderly congregate
housing units, and congregate Town-owned
affordable housing units, shall be billed as
commercial accounts for the billing cycle.

The residential sanitary sewer assessments
for 2022 – 2023 will be a 0.0% increase

\$12,349.56 – R20 and under

\$15,425.95 – R30 and R40

\$18,524.32 – R80

Copies of the proposed budget and as-
sessment are on file in the Town Engineer's
Office and the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall,
Farmington, CT.

Dated at Farmington, Connecticut this 9th
day of February 2022.

Jim Foote, Chairman
Farmington Water Pollution Control Authority
3/1/2022 7160096



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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon

Michael T. Hackbarth

Berlin

Elvina L. Pucci

Joan H. True

Bristol

Michael T. Hackbarth

Peter Haras*

Mark R. Lowrey *

Canton

Steven M. Day

East Hartford

Raymond J. Noble

Ira L. Osu

Farmington

Raymond J. Noble

Glastonbury

Beverly M. Aparo

Hartford

Adella Hall

Ira L. Osu

Manchester

Leonor T. Aloma

Beverly M. Aparo

Joseph F. Perzanowski

Middletown

Janet R. Sheehan

New Britain

C. Patricia Attardo

Cirino 'Rino' Barbagallo*

Mary Manochi

Elvina L. Pucci

Other Towns in CT

C. Patricia Attardo

Robert P. Dyer*

Robin L. Gardner

Louis A. Laterreur

Thomas A. Tiziani

Portland

Marabeth Gildersleeve

Rocky Hill

Mary Manochi

Joan H. True

South Windsor

Ruth H. Bolstridge

Joseph F. Perzanowski

West Hartford

Leonor T. Aloma

Wethersfield

Richard G. Lair

Windsor Locks

Louis A. Laterreur

Mary P. O'Connor

OUT OF STATE

C. Patricia Attardo

Lexington, KY

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Attardo, C. Patricia



C. Patricia Attardo, formerly of New Britain, died Saturday (Dec. 11, 2021) in Kentucky. Born in Middletown, the daughter of the late Onesine and Olivine (Mandeville) St. Martin, she lived most of her life in New Britain. She was the wife of the late Samuel N. Attardo, who died Oct. 12, 1999. During her career, Pat was an administrator for the State of Connecticut Board of Trustees and was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Mrs. Attardo is survived by her daughter Brenda Attardo; three grandchildren, Erin Cmuchowski, Erica Cmuchowski and Gabriel Attardo-Woja; and two nieces Cora Sciarra and Cynthia Herbert. Friends and family are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday (Mar. 5 2022) at 10:00AM at St. Francis of Assisi Church 1755 Stanley St. New Britain. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, 1141 Stanley St. New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to charity of donor's choice. To send a condolence, please visit www.FarrellFuneralHome.com.

FARRELL

FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Hackbarth, Michael T.



Michael Thomas Hackbarth was born on February 29, 1952 in Hartford, CT, to a family that would be incapable of raising him and five other siblings. While his siblings were raised in an orphanage, Michael was fostered through the system having met his adoptive parents, Harold and Flora (Thomas) Hackbarth of Avon. Throughout Michael's life of growing up, his parents had encouraged him to keep contact with his biological siblings. Michael understood the biological siblings were also victims and grew to understand diversity, humility, and continued love for all. Michael grew up in Avon playing clarinet for the St. Matthew Lutheran Church band and played on the high school basketball team. After graduation, Michael joined the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the USS AMERICA (CVA-66) during the Vietnam War. His commanding officers noted Michael as being strong in leadership, respectful and though quiet, his friendly attitude gained the respect of his shipmates. Michael left the Navy for home in 1974 when his father unexpectedly passed away, so that he could help care for his younger brother, Harold Jr., and mother. One year later he met his future wife Nancy, and Michael's mother married her neighbor of more than 50 years, Paul Farken. Paul was the best stepfather and friend to Michael until his passing in 2005. Michael and Nancy would raise two beautiful daughters and in later years he would become not only his daughters' dad, but the first man his "girls" would love and their best friend. Michael raised his daughters showing them love, kindness, compassion, and a strong male role model figure. Family was everything to him. Later Michael would become "Papa" to six grandchildren whom he loved and adored. Michael became active as a Commander for the American Legion Seicheprey Post 2 and held his position for several years and was also assistant chairman for the Bristol Veterans Council when the start up for the memorial brick walkway began. Veterans and their needs were especially important to Michael as he assisted in bringing gifts for families of veterans at Christmas for a number of years, planting flowers in cemeteries, placing flags on veterans' graves and raising funds for veterans' grave markers so they could be with proper recognition for their service. Michael passed away on February 22, 2022 after a brief illness with his wife of 46 years, Nancy, and daughters Melissa and Stephanie by his side. We have no doubt Michael entered the gates of heaven. He loved our Lord and Savior and lived a life with a kind heart, a do no harm attitude, and would always "help a brother out." Left to grieve Michael's passing is Nancy, his wife and soulmate; his children, Melissa Cartier and life partner Michael Valentine, and Stephanie Morin and husband Jeremy Morin; his beloved grandchildren, Jeremy Morin Jr., Brianna Morin, Rachel Cartier, Katherine Cartier, Samuel Cartier, and Michael Valentine; his brothers Harold Hackbarth of TN, and Willie Polzun and wife Linda of KY; his honorary brother and best friend Bob Kryszak; as well as several nieces, and his beloved dogs Winnie, Cooper, and Chance. Family and friends are invited to call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol from 4 to 7PM on Wednesday (March 2, 2022). Burial will be private in Peacedale Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michael's name to the Chapter 5 Bristol DAV (191 Riverside Ave Bristol, CT 06010), an organization of your choice which helps the veteran community, or the CT Humane Society (www.cthumane.org). To visit Michael's memorial website please visit www.FunkFuneralHome.com



encouraged him to keep contact with his biological siblings. Michael understood the biological siblings were also victims and grew to understand diversity, humility, and continued love for all. Michael grew up in Avon playing clarinet for the St. Matthew Lutheran Church band and played on the high school basketball team. After graduation, Michael joined the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the USS AMERICA (CVA-66) during the Vietnam War. His commanding officers noted Michael as being strong in leadership, respectful and though quiet, his friendly attitude gained the respect of his shipmates. Michael left the Navy for home in 1974 when his father unexpectedly passed away, so that he could help care for his younger brother, Harold Jr., and mother. One year later he met his future wife Nancy, and Michael's mother married her neighbor of more than 50 years, Paul Farken. Paul was the best stepfather and friend to Michael until his passing in 2005. Michael and Nancy would raise two beautiful daughters and in later years he would become not only his daughters' dad, but the first man his "girls" would love and their best friend. Michael raised his daughters showing them love, kindness, compassion, and a strong male role model figure. Family was everything to him. Later Michael would become "Papa" to six grandchildren whom he loved and adored. Michael became active as a Commander for the American Legion Seicheprey Post 2 and held his position for several years and was also assistant chairman for the Bristol Veterans Council when the start up for the memorial brick walkway began. Veterans and their needs were especially important to Michael as he assisted in bringing gifts for families of veterans at Christmas for a number of years, planting flowers in cemeteries, placing flags on veterans' graves and raising funds for veterans' grave markers so they could be with proper recognition for their service. Michael passed away on February 22, 2022 after a brief illness with his wife of 46 years, Nancy, and daughters Melissa and Stephanie by his side. We have no doubt Michael entered the gates of heaven. He loved our Lord and Savior and lived a life with a kind heart, a do no harm attitude, and would always "help a brother out." Left to grieve Michael's passing is Nancy, his wife and soulmate; his children, Melissa Cartier and life partner Michael Valentine, and Stephanie Morin and husband Jeremy Morin; his beloved grandchildren, Jeremy Morin Jr., Brianna Morin, Rachel Cartier, Katherine Cartier, Samuel Cartier, and Michael Valentine; his brothers Harold Hackbarth of TN, and Willie Polzun and wife Linda of KY; his honorary brother and best friend Bob Kryszak; as well as several nieces, and his beloved dogs Winnie, Cooper, and Chance. Family and friends are invited to call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol from 4 to 7PM on Wednesday (March 2, 2022). Burial will be private in Peacedale Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Michael's name to the Chapter 5 Bristol DAV (191 Riverside Ave Bristol, CT 06010), an organization of your choice which helps the veteran community, or the CT Humane Society (www.cthumane.org). To visit Michael's memorial website please visit www.FunkFuneralHome.com



Funk's

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Visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

Bolstridge, Ruth H. (Ovitt)



Ruth Harmony (Ovitt) Bolstridge, age 100, was called from this life on February 23, 2022. The family will receive visitors on Sunday March 6th from 6-8 PM at Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Road, South Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday March 7th at 10 AM meeting directly at St Francis of Assisi Church, 673 Ellington Road, South Windsor. Burial will follow at Wapping Cemetery in South Windsor. Memorial contributions may be made to Mental Health Connecticut, 61 South Main Street, Suite 100, West Hartford CT, or www.mhconn.org For online condolences and a full obituary listing please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Day, Steven M.

(August 17, 1982 - February 17, 2022) Steven Mark Day, 39, who grew up in and was devoted to Collinsville, CT, passed peacefully after a short, courageous battle with lung cancer. At 8 years old, Steven picked up his first entrepreneurial gig as a newspaper delivery boy on his bicycle. He bought his friends' birthday presents with his own money and felt so proud of himself. As a teen, Steven became a member of the Canton Volunteer Fire Department in the roles of firefighter and EMT. He studied and obtained his two Associate's degrees while mastering his chef skills at various restaurants in the Farmington Valley. At 19, he was dubbed "Wonder Boy" by seasoned chefs, because of his insanely advanced ability to conceptualize and execute exquisite plates as such a young, green chef. During the years prior to, and during his first marriage to Jane Falzarano Day of Simsbury, CT, he co-owned and operated The Village Cafe and Bistro in Canton, CT. This was his life's greatest work and brought joy and good food to the community from 2007 to 2017. He was a most adored boss at this cozy place, where hundreds of his fans lined up at the door to feel nourished and loved. In the spare moments that he was not behind the flames of the grill, Steven was enamored with planes, and received his pilot's license. He also flew professional-grade kites for fun. He relaxed tending to his tropical aquarium and growing flowers and food in his gardens while watching Jacques Pepin's cooking shows. He loved "stimulating the economy" by visiting hundreds of restaurants and travelling on several Mexican "cafecations" and conducting 'market research,' as he affectionately referred to it. Aside from cooking for friends and family at his home, he was a huge supporter of his beloved hometown, Collinsville, and the local eateries there. Chef Day sponsored tens of little league baseball teams in town. He had a policy to always say yes to anyone asking for a donation for their raffle, auction or cause. He also owned and operated The Riverpath Cafe in Collinsville. Most recently, Steven was cooking at Goldie's Eatery in Seymour, CT, where he was adored by the owners, staff and patrons alike. In addition to wife Karen (Kozakiewicz) Day of Milton, NY and her two daughters, Amy and Scarlet, he leaves behind his parents, Cindy and Ray of Collinsville, CT, brother Kenny, 31, and sister Kelly, 29 of Collinsville, CT. They were his world, and he was their role model, their idol, their beloved big brother. His passing has left countless beautiful memories with the Cote family of Canton/New Hartford, the Hartman Family of Canton/Winsted, and the Falzarano Family of Simsbury. Calling hours will be held on Wednesday, March 2nd, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Vincent Funeral Home, 120 Albany Turnpike in Canton. Steven shall lay to rest on the hill there at Collinsville's Village Cemetery. A graveside gathering will be announced in the spring. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes. "I want to live beneath the dirt; Where I'd be free from push and shove like all those swarming up above-- Beneath your heels I'll spend my time."

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Noble, Raymond J.



Raymond J. Noble, 75, of East Hartford died on February 26th after a courageous battle with lymphoma. The son of Raymond G. Noble Jr. and Mary (Donegan) Noble, Raymond was born on September 30, 1946 in Hartford, CT. Raymond grew up in East Hartford, CT and attended the University of New Haven, receiving a BA in Business Management in 1972. He went on to Western New England College, receiving his MBA in Finance in 1976 and working as a financial planner for Hublein, Inc. in Farmington for 16 years, followed by employment at Advco, Inc, in Windsor for the remainder of his career. Ray's fondest boyhood memories are of he and his father boating on Connecticut lakes and the Connecticut River. When he was 14 years old his parents purchased an antique home on Cape Cod in Dennisport MA and thus began his lifetime passion of boating on Nantucket Sound. Following his father's death in 1970 Ray continued to keep up the summer home for his mother and would eventually bring his wife and daughter to summer on the Cape, along with many extended family members. There were happy occasions when all four generations of the family were gathered there together at the same time. The Cape brought Ray and his family over six decades of summers filled with sand, sunshine, salt air, and boating. Ray had a penchant for current events, the financial market, and wealth management, but he also loved working with his hands. He spent much of his time on car, boat, and engine maintenance, household repairs, and yardwork. When Ray's daughter bought her first home, the pair spent many hours together on home improvement projects. Later when his daughter started her own veterinary practice, Ray greatly enjoyed seeing her embark into the business world and loved to discuss the particulars of small business planning with her. When Ray was not at work on a household project or chatting business strategy with a friend or family member, he could often be found cheering on the UCONN basketball team or enjoying his wife's gourmet cooking. He also took great pleasure in her homemade cookies and seasonal pies, and loved the milkshakes and root beer floats she would make for him in the evenings. Ray leaves behind his wife of 49 years, Susan (Squire) Noble, his daughter, Holly Noble of Wiscasset, Maine, sister Maureen (Noble) McCarthy of East Dennis, MA, sister Barbara (Noble) Powers and her husband, Steven Powers of Naples, FL and sister-in-law Jennifer Jones and her partner Craig Smith of Bondsville, MA, as well as many nieces and nephews. The family will hold a private memorial gathering. In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to the Midcoast Humane Society in Brunswick, Maine. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.



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Lair, Richard G.



Richard G. Lair, 63, of Wethersfield, beloved husband of Leslie (McCue) Lair, passed away peacefully at home with his loving family by his side on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Richard was born on May 13, 1958 in Newark, NJ, son of the late George James Lair and Gertrude Nolan Lair. Rich grew up in Upper Saddle River, NJ moving to CT in 1978, finally making Wethersfield his home. Rich lived his life to the fullest, never missing an opportunity and made a larger than life impact on everyone he met. His wife Leslie was the love of his life, his daughter Darcy was the sparkle in his eye, and his son Ryan's "Daddio". Rich was a longtime member of Wethersfield Country Club, his home away from home, where he loved golfing and spending time with friends and family. The 8th Tee was "home hole" for Rich, waking up in his home every day to the view of the course brought great joy to him. Every year he also looked forward to bringing friends to play at Baltusrol Country Club in Springfield, NJ where his father was a member. He was an avid sports fan, faithfully cheering on the New York Yankees, Giants and Rangers. He was the proud owner and founder of All Pallet Recycling in Bloomfield, which he built from the ground up. He enjoyed annual vacations in Aruba and cherished time spent with his family and friends. Along with his wife Leslie Lair, his children Ryan and Darcy Lair and bonus children Olivia and Chase Artibani he leaves behind many special people that meant the world to him and lots of friends and family. Rich will be missed dearly by so so many, his love, his laughter, and his presence will live on in all of us. A great man indeed! A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 5 at 10 a.m. at Christ the King Parish (Corpus Christi Church), 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church. Family and friends may call on Friday, March 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rich's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To share a memory of Rich with his family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com



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Pucci, Elvina L. (Lucarelli)



Elvina L. (Lucarelli) Pucci, 101, of Kensington. CT died Sunday February 27, 2022 at Ledgecrest Health Care Center. Elvina was born in Derby CT on Dec 24th 1920, the daughter of the late Nazzareno and Fenisia (Londei) Lucarelli. She was a 1938 graduate of Derby High School. She moved to New Britain in 1946 and later to Kensington in 1968. She was a life long member of Saint Ann's Church, and employed at Grossman Lumbeyard Newington as Office Manager until retirement. Previously she worked at Chance Vought, Stratford, CT during WWII producing F4 Corsair airplanes. Elvina was an active member of the Berlin Senior Center involved in line dancing and quilting. Several of her quilts were made for her daughters and grandchildren. Elvina was predeceased by her husband, George, of 49 years. She's survived by her daughters Loretta DiPietro(Richard)of Sebastian FL and Georgia Kelly(James) of Kensington, CT. She was predeceased by her daughter Cynthia Simone and son in law Antonio Simone and 7 siblings, Lydia Lucarelli, Viola Diotalevi, Agnes Rocheville, Eva Gambacini, Helen Marocco, Gloria Ragaini, and brother Edward Lucarelli killed in WWII. Elvina also leaves her grandchildren, Douglas Simone(Fiance Judith), Andrew Simone(Kim), Scott DiPietro(Fiance Colleen), Ryan DiPietro(Rachel), Jennifer Patterson (Scott), Alicia Halim (Nishan) and Kristen Kelly(Fiance Christopher) and 11 Great Grandchildren Emma, Payton, Chase, Cal and Hailey DiPietro, Ava and Matthew Patterson, Vjera, Adrian, and Elijah Halim, and Elijah Simone and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the staff at Ledgecrest Health Care Center for her care. Funeral services for Elvina will be held Thursday (March 3) at 11:00 AM at the Farrell Funeral Home 110 Franklin Sq. New Britain. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery 1141 Stanley St. Visitation will be held from 9:30 - 11:00AM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Berlin Senior Center, 33 Colonial Dr. Berlin, CT 06037. To send a condolence please visit, www.FarrellFuneralHome.com

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Sheehan, Janet R. (Kroencke)



Janet Rosemarie (Kroencke) Sheehan, 91, of Middletown passed Thursday, February 24, 2022 at Wadsworth Glen Health Care and Rehabilitation Center, Middletown. Janet was born in New York City in 1930, the daughter of Ernst and Alma (Haase) Kroencke who emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1921. Janet was raised in New York City and graduated as Valedictorian of Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, New York. Janet was the former wife of Felix G. Sheehan, whom she married in 1951. Together they moved to Belfast, Northern Ireland where she had her first two children. Janet loved to travel and enjoyed every opportunity to see the world. Janet was the mother of 7 girls who were her greatest joy and source of pride. Janet trained to become a nurse in college and went on to work for several years as an assistant for a local physician after having her children and then became a longtime volunteer at Middlesex Hospital Cancer Unit. Janet is survived by five daughters, Laureen Sheehan of North Carolina, Lisa Sheehan Kosicki and her husband Ken of Westbrook, Deirdre Sheehan of North Carolina, Rebecca Sheehan DeMolina and her husband Carlos of New York, Gwenevere Powell and her husband Scott of Southport, ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren (plus one on the way), 32 nieces and nephews including her beloved sister Evelyn's three daughters from Seattle and dozens of great nieces and great nephews, and many friends. Janet was predeceased by two daughters, Karen Sheehan, Dr. Nancy Sheehan, and her sister, Evelyn Perdue. A funeral liturgy will be held Friday, March 4th, at 10 a.m. at Saint Pius X Church, 310 Westfield Street Middletown. Burial will be held at Saint Sebastian Cemetery. Friends may call at Biega Funeral Home 3 Silver Street Middletown on Thursday, March 3rd from 5 to 7 p.m. Memorial contributions may be sent to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 5028, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5028 or <https://giving.mskcc.org>. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com

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OBITUARIES

Gardner, Robin L.



Robin Lynn Gardner, 66, of Coventry, beloved wife of Jennifer Nichols passed away Saturday, February 26, 2022 at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born July 21, 1955 in Providence, RI, the daughter of the late Thomas and Muriel Gardner. She had a great zest for life and was an amazing cook who enjoyed traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren. Besides her loving wife, Jennifer, she leaves her children, Jessica Talbot and her former partner Yanni Lipski of Harwinton, Ryan Talbot and his wife Rachel of Meriden, Becky Marsele and her husband Pete of Simsbury, Courtney Paradis and her husband Bryan of Bristol, and Mandy Talbot and her husband Gee Sivalingan of Sanfransico, CA; her grandchildren, Jahlisa, Bella, Aaron, Aiden, Madison, Allie, Graeme, Gabriel and Meera; her brothers, Tuck Gardner and his wife Linda of Belmeade, NJ and John Gardner of Glastonbury; her mother-in-law, Jeanne Nichols of Old Lyme; her sister-in-law, Jan and husband Kevin and family of Sterling, MA; her former husband and father of their children, Cary Talbot and his wife Roberta of Windsor; and many nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind good friends, Kim, Pearl and Toots. She was predeceased by her brothers, Mark and Peter Gardner. Robin and Jen enjoyed most their time at the lake with their children and grandchildren. We will never forget the smell of your kitchen and the warmth of your heart. We will always be up for one last splash. Will love you forever and forever. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 to 7 PM on Friday, March 4, 2022 at the Coventry-Pietras Funeral Home, 2665 Boston Tpke., Coventry, CT. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers please make donations to US Horse Welfare and Rescue Organization 345 Waterville Rd Avon CT 06001 For online condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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Gildersleeve, Marabeth

Marabeth C. Gildersleeve, 76 of Portland, CT, beloved sister, mother and friend, passed away Thursday, February 24, 2022 at home. She was the daughter of the late Allen Carlson and Mary (Flood) Carlson. Born on June 27, 1945 in Middletown, she grew up and lived in Portland her whole life. Marabeth worked in real estate for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in Glastonbury, CT. She loved working with clients to find their forever homes. She was a member of the Middletown Elks Club and loved getting out for a round of golf at one of the Portland courses. Marabeth was known around town for her upbeat personality, fashion sense and being the life of the party. She enjoyed spending time with her friends to the fullest playing setback, having martinis with the girls on Thursday or enjoying music at the Winchester Sunday afternoons. She never met a stranger as they say. She was predeceased by Chris Gildersleeve and leaves behind daughters Deb Gildersleeve of Old Saybrook, Jill Gildersleeve (Taradeina) of Portland and Sara Gildersleeve of Cromwell, CT, a sister Susan (Carlson) Whitney and her husband John of Longmeadow, MA and 5 nieces and nephews and 7 grand-nieces and nephews. The funeral will be held on Friday, March 4th at 10 a.m. from Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Followed by a Mass of Christian burial in St. Mary's Church at 11 a.m. Burial will be held at a later date in Center Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the funeral home, Thursday, March 3rd from 5 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to MARC Community Resources of Middletown (marccommunityresources.org) or The Sunshine Kids Foundation (sunshinekids.org)

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Hall, Adella Coote



Adella (Coote) Hall, 85, of Hartford, passed peacefully at Bloomfield Convalescent Home on February 12, 2022. She was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica on February 12, 1937, to the late Lester Coote and Birdie Skeer. She was employed with Alstom Manufacturing for many years until her retirement. Adella is survived by her two sisters, Angela Lawrence of Mount Vernon, NY, and Maureen Coote of Jamaica, West Indies. Quiet and kindhearted, Adella had a generous spirit and was loved by many. Graveside services will be held 11am, Thursday, March 3, 2022, at The Mount Saint Benedict Mausoleum, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield. The family of the late Adella (Coote) Hall wishes to express heartfelt thanks to the many friends, neighbors and the staff of Bloomfield Convalescent Home for their sincere sympathy and support during this time of sorrow.



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Tiziani, Thomas A.



Thomas "Tommy" A. Tiziani, 73, passed away February 23, 2022 at Johnson Memorial Hospital, Stafford Springs, CT. He was born in Stafford Springs, CT on September 2, 1948, the son of the late Etalo and Lena (Lombardi) Tiziani. He lived at Catholic Charities Group Home in Somers, CT for 24 years, and attended Day Program at Allied Rehab Center in Enfield, CT. Tommy leaves his sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor "Ellie" and Tom Kyc, and many cousins. He was predeceased by his parents. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Edward Church, 55 High St., Stafford Springs, CT, on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 12:00 Noon. Everyone is asked to go directly to the Church. Burial will follow at St. Edward Cemetery, Stafford Springs, CT. Due to Covid 19, masks and social distancing are requested. Eleanor and Tom wish to thank all the Staff at Catholic Charities, Allied Rehab, Parkview Pavilion, and Johnson Memorial Hospital for their care and concern. Memorial donations may be made to St. Edward Church, 27 Church St., Stafford Springs, CT 06076, or to Catholic Charities, 14 Plymouth Rd., Somers, CT 06071. To leave a condolence online for the family, please visit: www.introvignefuneralhome.com



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Aloma, Leonor T (De Ocejó)

Leonor T. Aloma (De Ocejó) of New Britain CT born 10/16/1928 in Cienfuegos, Cuba passed away on 2/17/22. She was devoted to her husband, Rodolfo, for 67 years. She is predeceased by her twin brother, Jose Luis De Ocejó, wife Blanca, 4 brother-in-laws and a niece. She was the devoted mother of her children Rodolfo and Alejandro R. Aloma and Helaine L. Fortes (Aloma). She was blessed with grandchildren and great grandchildren. A Mass will be held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Hartford On March 4th at 11am. Donations can be sent to St Jude's Children's Hospital.

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Laterreur, Louis A.



Louis A. Laterreur, 75, of East Windsor passed away Friday, February 25, 2022. He was born November 27, 1946 in Hartford, the son of the late Joseph and MarieAnne Laterreur. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War earning combat infantry and marksmanship badges and good conduct and an air medal. Coming home he worked at Delta Industries for many years until retirement he was an avid sports enthusiast his favorite teams were the Red Sox, The Whalers, and The Uconn Huskies He was a kind, gentle man with a great sense of humor who was loved by all. He is survived by his brothers, Joseph, Robert with his wife Reinette Laterreur and sister Cecile with her husband Roger Fouquette and many nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brothers Father Roger and Phillip Laterreur and sister Lucile and her husband Adrian Fouquette. His family would like to thank the Hartford health care hospice team for being so very professional and helpful thru his final days. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 to 7 PM on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Gardner St. East Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 AM Thursday March 3, 2022 at St. Philip Church, 150 S Main St. East Windsor. (Masks are required in Church.) Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery in Windsor Locks. For on-line condolences please visit: www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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Manochi, Mary

Mary Anna Manochi, 95, beloved wife of the late Omaro Manochi, passed away on Friday, February 25, 2022. She was born in New Britain to the late Domenico and Irene Marchionni and lived there 89 years before moving to Berlin. Mary was a proud and fiercely independent woman living life on her terms. Left to cherish her memory are her daughter and son in law Rita and Robert Purciello of Rocky Hill. She was predeceased by her brother Brandino Marchionni and sisters Ann Brunetto and Helen Thomas. There are no calling hours. A Graveside Service will be in the Rose Hill Memorial Park, 580 Elm Street Rocky Hill, CT. Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 11am. Please share online expressions of sympathy, memories or photo tributes at www.rosehillfuneralhomes.com

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O'Connor, Mary P.



Mary Patricia O'Connor, 93, our most wonderful and loving Aunt, passed away peacefully on Friday, February 25, 2022, at her home in Windsor Locks with family by her side. Born on March 11, 1928 and raised in Hartford, Connecticut, Mary was the daughter of the late Mary Catherine (Herlihy) O'Connor and the late Patrick O'Connor, both from County Kerry, Ireland. She graduated from Hartford Public High School and upon graduation, worked at the Royal Typewriter Company for many years. Following that, she worked at Combustion Engineering until her retirement. Mary most enjoyed being with her family and friends, especially at her annual summer cookouts, which made for lasting memories. She was someone who was a joy to be around as she was a giving, selfless person who had a wonderful sense of humor. Mary was an avid reader and loved to travel, especially to Ireland to celebrate her Irish heritage. Her loving spirit will live on in her many nieces, nephews, cousins and their families, as well as everyone whose lives she touched. Mary, the oldest of seven, was predeceased by brothers, Patrick, Edward, John and William O'Connor, sisters Catherine (O'Connor) Ciccomascolo and Peggy (O'Connor) Thomas, nephew Chris O'Connor, and cousin James Herlihy. A special thank you to Bickfords Healthcare Center and Hartford Hospital. Mary's family will receive relatives and friends from 4 to 6 pm on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St, Windsor Locks. A procession will gather at the funeral home at 9 am on Friday, March 4, 2022 for a Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10 am at St. Mary Church, 42 Spring St., Windsor Locks. Burial will follow at Mount Saint Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. For more information and online condolences please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com. In honor of her sister Catherine, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

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Aparo, Beverly M. (Mikoleit)



Beverly M. Aparo, 87, of Davenport, FL (formerly Manchester, CT) died peacefully on Friday, February 25, 2022. She has been reunited with her beloved husband, Robert T. Aparo, who passed in July 2014. Beverly was born in Manchester, CT on April 12, 1934, the daughter of the late Clarence and Bernice Mikoleit. A long time resident of Manchester, Beverly was an administrative assistant at Brescome Distributors and later was an assistant teacher at Manchester Head Start Pre-school, a job that she loved. She will be remembered for her great sense of humor, her love for her family and her kind heart. Beverly is survived by her daughter, Linda Jones of Sarasota, FL and her two sons, Jeffrey Jones and his wife Kelly of Davenport, FL and Thomas Jones and his wife Sara of Fairfield, CA, along with four cherished grandchildren, Ryan Jones, Shawna Rushford and her husband, Colby, Benjamin Jones and his wife, Taryn, Nicholas Jones and his fiancée, Cindy, and her grand-pup, Fenway, as well as four beloved great-grandchildren, Madison and Landon Rushford and Carly and Connor Jones. Beverly was especially close with her brother Clarence "Skip" Mikoleit and his wife, MaryAnn and her sister, Muriel "Miki" Dickinson and her husband William as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her younger brother, Timothy Mikoleit. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10:00 am at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. Friends may call on Friday, March 4, 2022 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in her memory may be made to the 2nd Congregational Church of Manchester, 385 N Main St, Manchester, CT 06042 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com.



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Perzanowski, Joseph F.



Joseph Francis Perzanowski, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, passed away peacefully at his home at the age of 91 on February 25, 2022. Born and raised in Rockville, CT, he married his high school sweetheart, Dorothy, and spent 71 wonderful years together. After high school graduation, he joined the Navy and served in the Korean War as a yeoman, first class on the USS Caloosahatchee. He was a longtime member of the Army Navy Club. He went on to graduate from Hillyer College and later received his master's degree in education from Central Connecticut University. Joe was devoted to his career as an elementary school teacher. He was an active member of the Church of the Assumption and served as a Eucharistic minister. He was also a member of a small Christian community group that he cherished, along with his church family. He is survived by his loving wife Dorothy, son Gary and wife Kathy of Rutland, VT, son Kevin of Manchester, CT, son Dale of Hartford, VT, and his sister-in-law Shirley Krasinski of Bridgewater, MA. He is also survived by his eight grandchildren; Sarah, Sam, Lauren, Kara, Dana, Kyle, Colton, and Sloane, who all loved him dearly. He was also blessed to have 14 great grandchildren. At the family's request there will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at the Church of the Assumption, 27 Adams St. South., Manchester, CT. Burial will follow at St. Bernard Cemetery in Vernon, CT. In remembrance of Joe, the family would appreciate a donation made to MACC charities, P.O. Box 3804, Manchester, CT 06045. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



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True, Joan H.(Harrison)



Joan M. True, 88, formerly of East Berlin and Rocky Hill, passed away on Friday, February 25, 2022 at the Hospital of Central CT. Born in England, she was the daughter of the late George Harrison and Thomasina (Lattimer) Harrison. Joan was formerly employed as a medical assistant in the Emergency room at New Britain General Hospital, and later was employed in the offices of Dr. Lopez and Dr. Alami before retiring. She was a member of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in East Berlin and later at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wethersfield. Joan was an active in her churches, serving on the Altar Guild and teaching Sunday School. Surviving are her children, Dale True and wife Barbara of Hinsdale, NH, Brian True Sr. of Canton, Linda Cosina and her fiancé Steven Svetz of Cromwell, and David True of Canton; her grandchildren, Francine and Douglas Latham, Joseph and Paula Bogoslofski III, Christopher Cosina, Andrea and Erik Glidden, Brian and Rose Mary True Jr.; her great-grandchildren, Rebecca Latham, Douglas and Emily Latham, Joseph Bogoslofski IV, Amanda Bogoslofski, and Lily Bogoslofski; and a great great-granddaughter, McKenzie Donavan. In addition to her parents, Joan was predeceased by a daughter, Margaret. Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 5, 2022 at 11 AM at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wethersfield. Burial will be in Rose Hill Memorial Park. A calling hour will be Friday morning from 9:00 AM to 10 AM Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin/Porters at 111 Chamberlain Hwy, Kensington. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd, Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489 or the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111. Please share a memory of Joan with the family in the online guest book @ www.ericksonhansenberlin.com

ERICKSON-HANSEN

Berlin

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OBITUARIES

Osu, Ira Lester



Ira Lester Osu, 41, of East Hartford, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, February 20, 2022, at his home. Born in Hartford on April 17, 1980, son of Patrick Okechukwu Osu and the late Juliet (Tate) Stewart, he was raised in Hartford and attended Hartford Public Schools. Ira was very creative and intelligent and did everything to perfection. He always had goals, always wanted to better himself and never gave up. Although he was a trained graphic artist, Ira preferred to work in sales. He started his career in the auto industry at Lia Hyundai where he worked as a car salesman for over 15 years and most recently had been at Napoli Kia in Milford for the last three years. A self-taught artist, he was amazing at drawing and was a natural rapper. His stage name, "Blacastan", was well-known domestically and internationally. He was a producer for Underground Hip Hop and had a huge following on Facebook and Instagram. Everything Ira did was art and everyone he touched he made better. Ira saw life differently and his vision was profound. He once commented that his creativity was so vivid and complex that what he saw in his mind he could only express 5% percent of it in a picture. Most of all, Ira was a family man and was always very friendly and jovial. He leaves to mourn his passing, his father, Patrick Okechukwu Osu and his wife Blessing of Woodbridge, VA; his fiancé and partner of 12 years, Monika Koziol of East Hartford; five brothers, Dwayne Stewart of Hartford, Patrick Osu, Jr., Alfred Osu, Christopher Osu, and Johnathan Osu of Woodbridge, VA; three special aunts, Rosemarie Tate of West Hartford, Jean Antoinette Jacobs of Windsor, and Doreen Wright of Hartford; six special cousins who were more like brothers and sisters, Andre Wright and his wife Kristi of Cromwell, Stephanie Joy Jacobs of Windsor, Frank A. Jacobs, III of Windsor, Norman "Ricky" Davis and his wife Trudy of West Hartford, Sharmeen "Nikki" Wright of Hartford, and Sharon Bennett of Austin, TX; his fiancé's family including her parents who loved him like a son, Henryk and Czeslawa Koziol of New Britain; two nieces; and a host of other relatives and friends. Besides his mother, he was predeceased by his maternal grandmother with whom he shared a special bond, Ethel Tate. His family will receive friends on Thursday, March 3, 9-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., at The Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Rd., Windsor. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Memorial donations may be made to the Ira Osu Memorial Scholarship Fund by visiting, <https://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/ira-osu-memorial-scholarship-fund/6514/>. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences or to view the service live or after Thursday, March 3rd at 11 a.m., please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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August 2, 1948 - February 27, 1994

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CONNECTICUT

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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

State school mask mandate expires

As control over enforcing face coverings shifts to local districts, here's what you need to know

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's statewide school masking mandate expired Monday, leaving decisions about whether to continue requiring face masks up to local school districts.

Three weeks ago Gov. Ned Lamont recommended that the state lift its mask mandate on Feb.

28 and let local school and public health officials make their own decisions. At the time, Lamont said that high vaccination rates among Connecticut residents underpinned the policy shift.

The General Assembly later approved giving the state departments of public health and education the authority to reinstate a school mask mandate through

June 30, though the departments have opted to leave the decision to local districts.

The easing of Connecticut's school masking policy reflects a new era for a fraught issue that has divided families and districts throughout the pandemic.

Here's what you need to know about the new policy:

Which schools will require masks? Some of Connecticut's largest school systems, including Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport,

Waterbury and Stamford, have announced that they will continue requiring masks in schools.

Other districts — including West Hartford, Glastonbury, Newington and Farmington — have said that they will let staff and students decide for themselves whether or not to mask, starting Tuesday.

A slew of other districts, including in Bloomfield and Norwich, are waiting a little longer to determine whether to drop the mandate. Lamont said Monday that about 85% of school districts across the

state elected to drop mandatory face mask wearing as of Monday.

How has DPH advised schools on the decision? The Department of Public Health recommends that before making changes to school masking strategies, school officials should work with local health officials, staff, students and parents to consider "the unique complexities of school environments," including local COVID-19 transmission

Turn to Masks, Page 2

Clergy diverge on aid in dying

Terminally ill could seek help in ending lives under new bill

By Daniela Altamari
Hartford Courant

The Rev. Ollie Gray III watched his mother draw her last breath as she lay dying of cancer. That harrowing experience nearly 30 years ago reaffirmed his belief that only God determines when death occurs.

"In the end, God knows what's best," said Gray, a pastor and motivational speaker from Waterbury. "And his timing, even in the matter of death, is perfect."

Gray was one of nearly a dozen Christian leaders to speak out at a recent legislative hearing against a bill that would make Connecticut the 12th state to legalize aid-in-dying for terminally ill patients.

The Catholic Church, which believes suffering is part of life, has long been one of the most powerful voices in opposition to the measure. Catholic teaching holds that life is sacred from conception until "natural death" and, in 2020, the Vatican reaffirmed its stance that assisted suicide is evil.

"Our own pain and suffering is not worthless but rather redemptive when united with Jesus Christ," the Rev. Joel Estrada, a Catholic priest, told lawmakers at the hearing. "Assisted suicide... will only cause the temporal and spiritual downfall of our state and its deteriorating view of the true dignity and sacredness of life."

But other people of faith take a different view.

The Rev. Josh Pawelek, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Society: East in Manchester, spoke out in support of Senate Bill 88, which would allow patients with less than 6 months to live to seek a physician's help in ending their lives.

Turn to Clergy, Page 2



WECO Hospitality will start delivering meals to Hartford-area homes March 22. Among the offerings is the lobster ravioli kit. BRIAN SAMUELS PHOTOGRAPHY

Pay-what-you-want meal service coming to area

Mass.-based WECO will kick off expansion with 'lasagna drop' at local brewery

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

A new meal prep service that delivers locally sourced food to your door is expanding into the Hartford area starting March 22 and announcing its arrival with a lasagna event in West Hartford.

An Acton, Massachusetts-based meal prep and delivery service will expand into the Hartford area starting March 22, and will hold a

lasagna event in West Hartford on March 5 to announce its expansion.

WECO Hospitality, co-founded in March 2020 and based in Acton, Massachusetts, drops new menus — full meals, kids' meals and desserts — every Thursday at noon. Meals, prepared the morning of delivery, are delivered to homes Monday to Friday.

Starting March 22, WECO will deliver to homes in West Hart-

ford, Avon, Canton, Bloomfield, Windsor, Simsbury, Farmington, Burlington, Windsor Locks, East Granby, Granby and Suffield. More towns will be added in phases.

WECO sources food from New England purveyors, including BOTL Farm in Ashford, Arethusa Farms in Bantam and Saugatuck Kitchens in Stratford.

The company has a unique payment system. Customers order online but, as in a restaurant, they

do not pay for the meal until after it is eaten. Unlike a restaurant, however, customers decide how much to pay.

Jennifer Fremont-Smith, WECO CEO and co-founder, said the system "is totally crazy but we are really glad we did it."

"Our payment system is trust-based. We operate on the honor system. When you request food

Turn to Meals, Page 2

"We ask customers to add whatever they think is fair for our overhead, labor and love. Essentially, they're paying the ingredient cost and whatever is reasonable that they consider to be the value of the meal."

— Jennifer Fremont-Smith, WECO Hospitality CEO and co-founder

Package stores ditch Russian-made vodka

Shelves cleared to show solidarity with Ukraine

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Some Connecticut package stores are ditching Russian-made vodka to protest the invasion of Ukraine, while government leaders in the state and nation are calling for a boycott of all things Russian.

At Seaside Wine & Spirits in Old Saybrook, owner Tracy Aglio posted a sign: "No Russian products sold here."

"It's just to let people know we stand in solidarity with Ukraine," Aglio said Monday.

Removed to a back room were four brands of vodka either made in Russia or with Russian-grown ingredients, she said.

Also, governors of New Hampshire and several other states have ordered government-run liquor stores to stop selling Russian-made spirits.

"We will do our part to push back on the Russian invaders and stand with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine," Utah Governor Spencer Cox said, according to a Reuters report. He also said that Utah would review all state procurements to check for any Russian ties.

Jean Cronin, executive director of the Connecticut Package Stores Association, wrote a note to members Monday.

"Like residents throughout Connecticut and the United States," Cronin wrote, "the Connecticut Package Stores Association expresses its support of the Ukrainian people who are fighting for a free and independent Ukraine against the unprovoked and inhumane aggression by Russia against a democratic and sovereign nation."

"Although we are subject to anti-trust laws in organizing any boycott of Russian produced spir-



Some Connecticut package stores are removing Russian-made vodka to protest the invasion of Ukraine. DAVID SILVERMAN/GETTY

its," Cronin wrote, "we encourage our member package stores to use their discretion and to follow their conscience in making individual decisions to remove Russian spirits in solidarity with the people of Ukraine."

Boycotts, however, are unlikely to have much financial impact. Only 1.2% of U.S. vodka imports came from Russia in the first half of 2021, according to news reports. Data

Turn to Vodka, Page 2

Budget panel wants more control over contracting

Legislation comes amid federal Diamantis probe

By Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

The General Assembly's budget-writing panel is pushing back against Gov. Ned Lamont to assume greater control over contracting policies.

The Appropriations Committee has raised legislation that potentially would shield the state's contracting watchdog board from job freezes, emergency budget cuts and other budget-management techniques at the governor's disposal.

The panel's Senate chairwoman announced the group also is developing clarifying language to ensure all policies tied to the state's massive school construction program are set only by the legislature.

The Lamont administration has been on the defensive over



Osten

the past month following reports that the FBI is investigating school construction work and other projects overseen by the governor's former deputy budget director, Kosta Diamantis.

"The legislature decides what school construction [grants] cover," said Sen. Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, co-chairwoman of the budget-writing committee.

Diamantis frustrated municipal leaders last August when he informed Coventry officials that the state wouldn't help to pay to upgrade aging ventilators in its middle and high schools — an expensive proposition, made more pressing by the continued presence of the coronavirus.

Connecticut reimburses

Turn to Budget, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Clergy

from Page 1

“As a pastor who will inevitably be asked to serve as a witness to requests for medical aid and dying should this bill become law... I cannot imagine saying ‘no, I don’t support you,’” Pawelek said.

“For me to witness and support such a request, and to be present at the time of death if invited, would be an act of the most compassionate, loving ministry I can provide,” he said.

The Rev. Cecily Stranahan, an interfaith minister from Southport, said she, too, views efforts to end a person’s suffering as an expression of kindness and love.

“We do not allow our pets to die in long, drawn-out, pain, suffering and helplessness,” she wrote in an email to lawmakers.

“We, with consideration and planning, should be allowed the

same option,” Stranahan said.

Ten states, along with the District of Columbia, allow some form of aid in dying. The concept has been raised in Connecticut at least 14 times since 1994. Last year was the first time the bill was approved by the legislature’s public health committee, but it failed to come up for a full vote in either the House or the Senate.

The bill’s supporters say this year they will again bring it up for a committee vote.

Supporters of the measure say providing terminally ill patients with a medical means to end their suffering provides enormous comfort, even though studies show most people who qualify under the bill do not pursue aid in dying.

But critics of the legislation say it could be used to target vulnerable people such as those with disabilities and the elderly. (The bill’s advocates say safeguards embed-

ded in the legislation, such as a requirement that only mentally competent patients can participate, address those concerns.)

Critics also point out that medical experts can’t always determine exactly when a terminally ill person will die. Instead of approving aid in dying, they said, the state ought to provide more resources for palliative and hospice care.

Sister Catherine Mary Clarke, a clinical social worker and spiritual care for Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care, told lawmakers that terminally ill patients need not suffer at the end of life, provided they have access to proper pain medication through hospice.

“What is extraordinary and beautiful is the way that that process can unfold even if it’s difficult,” Clarke said.

“There’s essentially no reason for someone to have to be in pain with proper services,” she said. “That doesn’t mean it’s not painful

to watch someone you love decline but in the course of that process, the conversations, the reminiscences, the healing that happens on every level. It really is a gift.”

Connecticut, a blue state where Democrats control both chambers of the General Assembly and the governor’s office, was the third state to recognize marriage equality and has a long tradition of supporting access to legal abortion.

But unlike other cultural issues, the aid in dying debate doesn’t always break down along political lines. Former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, a Democrat and a Roman Catholic, was a strong opponent of the idea. (His successor, Gov. Ned Lamont, also a Democrat, has been more open to the idea.)

The state is also among the most heavily Catholic. Late last week, the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference, the church’s lobbying arm, sent an email blast to parishioners asking them to sign a

petition against Senate Bill 88.

“The state of Connecticut already faces a suicide crisis and should not enact any legislation that views suicide as a solution to a problem,” the petition states.

But the state also has a tradition of religious tolerance, said the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree, a retired United Church of Christ minister.

“As a state we’ve set aside other singular religious doctrines that used to govern birth control and freedom of conscience and same gender marriage,” Foy Crabtree told members of the public health committee.

“We don’t impose our faith practice on others and we have a reasonable expectation that others will not try to impose their faith practices on us,” Crabtree said. “Everyone should be free to practice their faith according to its teachings as they understand them and according to their own relationship with God.”

Meals

from Page 1

from us, we are going to cook it, package it, deliver it to your door. You are going to unbox it, heat it, plate it and eat it all before we’ve asked you for money,” Fremont-Smith said.

Each customer is emailed a payment invoice at 7 p.m. the night of the meal.

“We will only bill you the cost of ingredients [and a \$6 per-day delivery fee],” she said. “Then we ask customers to add whatever they think is fair for our overhead, labor and love. Essentially, they’re paying the ingredient cost and whatever is reasonable that they consider to be the value of the meal.”

The system has worked, she said. “Our community is pretty good at covering the cost,” she said. “If they can afford to pay more, they do, and that allows us to serve those who pay a little less.”

On average, ingredient costs per person for main courses range from \$9 to \$13, for bowls \$7 to \$9 and for kids’ meals \$5 to \$7. Fremont-Smith said the menu can’t be more specific than that because the local farms where WECO buys food won’t know until the day the food is bought what they will charge for it.

WECO has gained popularity in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In addition to Connecticut, WECO plans to expand to Maine and Rhode Island.

Every week, WECO studies customer requests to decide where to expand.

“There is this ever-growing chorus of people saying, please come to our town. It’s been that way from the beginning,” she said. “A lot of people have been asking us to come to Hartford. People in

our areas buy gift cards give them to friends in Hartford. People in Hartford are saying, I want to use this card.”

The meals delivered to Hartford-area towns will be made in the commissary kitchen in Randolph, Massachusetts. Eventually, Fremont-Smith said, WECO will establish a kitchen in Connecticut.

Past menu selections have spanned the globe: Italian (potato gnocchi piccata, chicken marsala), Indian (chicken tikka masala, saag paneer), Mexican (beef barbacoa burritos, tacos shrimp al pastor), Chinese (mushroom lo mein, shrimp and basil fried rice), Japanese (pork belly miso ramen, soba noodle bowls), North African (Moroccan pot roast, harissa chicken), Thai (khao soi, sweet chili shrimp and rice bowl), Spanish (gambas al ajillo), Korean (bibimbap rice bowls), Vietnamese (banh mi) and French (choucroute garnie). WECO also serves a variety of American-style dishes such as roast pork loin, short ribs, salads with steak or chicken and fried chicken, as well as meatless selections, kids’ meals and desserts.

Fremont-Smith said meals sell out quickly, so those who want to buy them should log in as soon as possible after noon on Thursday. “We have customers who set alarms so they won’t forget,” she said.

WECO Hospitality will hold a “Limited Edition Lasagna Drop” on March 5 from 2 to 6 p.m. at New Park Brewing, 485 New Park Ave. Up to 200 customers can buy a WECO lasagna, meat or veggie, to be picked up there. To get a lasagna that day, register in advance at wecohospitality.com/secret-lasagna-drop.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Vodka

from Page 1

from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States showed Russian vodka accounted for only \$18.5 million of the \$1.4 billion worth of total vodka imports in the U.S. last year. Many Russian-styled vodkas sold here, including Smirnoff and Stolichnaya, are made in the U.S. and other countries.

Cronin advised members that most popular vodka brands “are not affiliated with Russia, and are either produced in the United States or in countries that are outspoken supporters of Ukraine. We encourage members to exercise due diligence when making their decisions.”

Still, liquor store owners and government leaders were rallying behind the call to dump all Russian-made products. U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal recently tweeted a photo of Russian vodka and urged people to join a boycott.

“Meager as Russian imports are,” Blumenthal tweeted, “boycotting them can show our revulsion & rejection of (Russian President Vladimir) Putin’s inhumane atrocities against Ukraine. As Ukrainians fiercely defend their freedom, this combined consumer action can send a signal of solidarity. Count me in.”

Asked about efforts to stop the sale of Russian spirits, Lamont said at a news conference in New Haven, “Well, that’s great. But that’s public relations. You want to have real sanctions, you’re dealing with oil and energy.” The governor also called for sales of anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons to “these amazing freedom fighters right now.”

Courant staff writer Stephen Singer contributed to this story. Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

Masks

from Page 1

levels, risk tolerance and vaccination status within the school community.

For students and staff who opt to keep wearing masks, DPH has advised districts to help families manage expectations and offer support to those who “might experience stress, fear, or anxiety being in school situations where masks are not being worn.”

The department has also urged districts to develop contingency plans in the event of a COVID-19 surge or local outbreak.

Where else will masks be required? In addition to schools that opt to retain mask mandates, masking will still be required in a number of different settings across the state, according to DPH.

Masking will still be required in licensed healthcare facilities including hospitals, outpatient clinics and doctors’ offices, nursing homes and assisted living institutions, clinical laboratories and congregate living setting such as residential care homes and group homes. Masks will also continue to be required in shelters for those experiencing homelessness.

How does this compare to CDC guidance? On Friday, the CDC announced a major policy shift, unveiling a series of recommendations indicating that the majority of Americans could stop wearing masks.

Under the new guidelines, masking is only recommended in schools within counties that are at high risk for COVID-19 transmission. Since last summer, the CDC had previously recommended universal masking in

schools, regardless of local transmission levels.

Under the CDC guidance, people in seven of Connecticut’s eight counties are no longer recommended to wear masks in public, indoors settings. In the final county, Middlesex, people at high risk for COVID-19 are advised to consult a doctor on whether they should wear a mask.

How are COVID-19 metrics in Connecticut right now? COVID-19 metrics have continued to decline in Connecticut over the past week, although at a slower rate than earlier this month.

As of Friday, Connecticut’s weekly COVID-19 test positivity rate stood at 3.16%, the lowest it has been since Nov. 21. The state had 235 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 as of Friday, the lowest the metric has been since mid-November.

Currently — under guidance announced Friday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — only one Connecticut county, Middlesex, is recording a “high” level of COVID-19 transmission. As of Monday, all other counties are recording “substantial” levels of transmission, at which the CDC no longer recommends wearing masks in public, indoor spaces.

As of Monday, 93.9% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 77.8% of all residents and 81.9% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. Additionally, about 53.4% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

Associated Press contributed to this report. Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Budget

from Page 1

communities for between 10% and 71% of new construction and wide-scale renovation projects designed to last 20 years or longer, depending largely upon a community’s wealth.

But if a district wants to perform a smaller project — such as replacing or upgrading a heating/ventilation system exclusive of a major facility renovation — the entire cost is borne locally.

Some legislators have questioned whether this is backed by statute or was simply an administrative decision.

Osten and the other Appropriations Committee co-chairwoman, state Rep. Toni E. Walker, D-New Haven, said the goal going forward is to ensure such policy parameters are set by the legislature.

“I think there are more districts that wanted to do HVAC [upgrades] and were told not to,” Walker said, adding she believes most lawmakers from both parties want the state to help pay to fix this problem.

Lamont proposed in early February dedicating \$90 million in the next fiscal year to help towns pay for air quality upgrades in schools.

A second component to the bill being developed by the Appropriations Committee would clarify — once and for all — that the school construction would remain in the Department of Administrative Services and not in the governor’s budget office.

Several legislators from both parties raised concerns in the spring of 2019 when Lamont’s then-budget director, Melissa McCaw, unilaterally transferred Diamantis and other staff tied to school construction from DAS into the Office of Policy and Management, despite an existing statute assigning the unit to DAS.

McCaw resigned Friday to take a post as East Hartford’ finance director.

Administrative officials said the matter would be clarified in the



The contracting board has been probing contracts involving the development of the State Pier in New London to help support a major offshore wind-to-energy project. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

2020 General Assembly session, but that was cut short in early March when the coronavirus struck Connecticut. And no legislation, retroactively blessing or reversing the move, was adopted in 2021.

The Lamont administration moved the school construction program back to DAS last fall, shortly after Diamantis resigned.

“We have no intention of moving the [school construction] office” again, Chris McClure, spokesman for the governor’s budget agency, said Friday.

And in a complementary move, the Appropriations Committee has raised a bill designed to insulate the State Contracting Standards Board from normal oversight by the governor’s office.

Osten said the insulation could take one of several forms.

Lawmakers are researching whether the contracting watchdog, created by the legislature in 2007 but never properly funded, could be moved from the Executive

Branch to the Legislative Branch — and still maintain its authority to review and potentially suspend procurement and bidding practices of Executive Branch agencies.

Osten said legislative attorneys have raised concerns that empowering a Legislative agency to oversee Executive Branch departments could run afoul of the state Constitution. But if that is the case, there are other options to safeguard the contracting board.

The legislature already exempts other watchdog agencies in the Executive Branch — such as the Freedom of Information Commission and the Office of State Ethics — from certain budgetary restrictions that the governor can impose on other departments.

Osten said the bill could bar the administration, for example, from imposing any hiring freeze on contracting board staff or freezing emergency midyear budget cuts.

The contracting board and Lamont have bumped heads since the latter took office in 2019.

The board — which has only one paid staffer — has been probing contracts involving the development of the State Pier in New London to help support a major offshore wind-to-energy project.

It particularly is concerned with more than \$520,000 in “success fees” paid in 2018 to Seabury Capital Group to help with search for a pier operator. This happened three months after Henry Juan III of Greenwich, who was a managing director with Seabury, resigned from the port authority’s governing board.

The two-year budget that legislators and Lamont adopted last June technically included just under \$700,000 per year for the contracting standards board — the same level the board was supposed to have when it was launched 14 years ago. That included \$450,000 in each year to fund five additional positions.

But shortly after that was passed, legislative leaders, at the request of the Lamont adminis-

tration, included a provision in a subsequent budget policy bill that barred the board from spending \$450,000 of its annual allotment.

Lamont still doesn’t want to fund more positions for the contracting office. He has said he doesn’t believe the board is necessary and performs functions already provided by other state agencies.

Instead, he recommended this February that lawmakers add three new staffers to another watchdog agency, the Auditors of Public Accounts Office, and allow the contracting board to refer matters to that unit.

“We look forward to working with the General Assembly over the course of the session on this issue,” McClure said, adding that “there seems to be some confusion regarding our proposal.”

Appropriations Committee leaders want full funding restored to the contracting board.

“There has got to be more than one watchdog agency out there,” Walker said, adding that the contracting board needs to look at “all of the no-bid contracts going out” of state agencies. “That’s the kind of transparency everybody should be striving for.”

House Republicans called this week for an investigation of all administration contracting practices.

Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, said that while the appropriations panel measures may have merit, they aren’t enough.

The issue isn’t about one state pier project or a handful of school renovations, Candelora said.

Only a detailed investigation, he added, can assess not only how public agencies purchase private services and goods but also the inter-departmental “memorandums of understanding” they sign, such as one that shifted a school construction program handling hundreds of millions of dollars annually without legislative permission.

“Why did they happen?” Candelora said. “How did they happen? ... The issue isn’t just school construction.”

CONNECTICUT

Victims ID'd in fatal wrong-way crash on I-84

Residents urged to evaluate fitness to drive after six died in two similar incidents over weekend

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

State police on Monday identified the four people who were killed in a head-on crash with a semi truck on I-84 Saturday and also asked people to evaluate both their own and loved ones' fitness to drive after a weekend in which six people died in wrong-way crashes, including two victims on I-91.

Victims in the I-84 crash, all from Hartford, were Natachia Rivera-Hall, 40, of 38 Bedford St.; April Slade, 40, of 46 Seyms St.;

Yarelis Ramos, 37, of 138 Stonington St.; and Quashonda Grant, 31, of 141 Woodland St.

The truck driver, Kurt Bahler, 38, of 32 Ellington Ave., Ellington, was taken to the hospital for treatment of possible minor injuries, police said.

The accident happened on the eastbound side of the highway at about 2:45 a.m. west of Exit 51. Bahler was driving a Kenworth W900 east in the left lane of four and Rivera-Hall was driving the wrong way in the same lane in a Chevrolet Equinox when the two

vehicles crashed head-on, police said.

All four occupants of the Equinox were pronounced dead at the scene, police said. Any witness to the collision is asked to contact Trooper John Wilson at 860-534-1098, or at john.wilson@ct.gov.

"The issue of wrong way drivers is one that is not unique to our state," state police Sgt. Dawn Pagan said. "It is a battle that is faced nationwide and unfortunately is not something new. In addition to impaired drivers, causes include people experiencing mental health crises, disoriented drivers who may be ill and severe weather conditions that can limit visibility.

"We urge the public to continue

to call 911 immediately when they witness these drivers on the roadway," Pagan said.

Also, she said, helping loved ones manage their mental and physical health and evaluating driving capabilities to determine if maintaining a driver's license is appropriate can help prevent wrong-way crashes, along with pulling over and calling 911 if you fall ill while driving, avoiding travel in bad weather and having a designated driver or using a share ride service.

Wrong-way crashes often result in death and serious injuries due to the force of impact. A study by AAA released in March 2021 found that between 2010 and 2018 there were 2,921 fatal wrong-way crashes

resulting in 3,885 deaths—an average of 430 deaths per year and an increase from the 360 yearly deaths from 2004-09.

From 2010-18, wrong-way crashes accounted for an average of 3.7% of all fatal crashes on divided highways, according to the study.

About 60% of wrong-way drivers had blood-alcohol levels of 0.08 or higher, according to the study. Age also was a factor. The study found that the odds of being a wrong-way driver by age followed a j-shaped curve, sloping down toward middle adulthood and up at late adulthood.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

REVIEW

A lovely romance amid tense times

TheaterWorks' compelling 'This Bitter Earth' makes case for return to in-person theatergoing

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

There's plenty to miss about live theater besides grand spectacle. With the compelling two-person romantic drama "This Bitter Earth," TheaterWorks makes a great case for intimate, dialogue-heavy plays as the best reason to get back to in-person theatergoing.

Harrison David Rivers' heart-wrenching, eye-opening drama is about getting involved, whether with other people or with the world at large. It's the kind of involvement best seen close at hand, in the focused environment of a small theater.

Watching actors Tom Holcomb and Damian Thompson laugh, love, fight and make up, at close quarters, in a realistic small bedroom setting, brings a level of depth and wonder that simply can't be conveyed in a virtual production (though TheaterWorks has done some mighty ones), an audiobook, a podcast or any other medium.

Thompson, as a withdrawn young Black playwright and college student named Jesse, and Holcomb as a born-to-privilege white man named Neil (who is much more overtly politically active than Jesse) make an utterly convincing couple, from their playful banter to their uncomfortable-to-watch arguments to some sensual love scenes.

The script is lyrical and deep and its often charged dialogue rings true. "This Bitter Earth" has had several acclaimed productions around the country but Rivers is still fine-tuning it and visited the Hartford rehearsals so he could make sure it continues to resonate powerfully.

It's a talky play, but Rivers makes sure this "This Bitter Earth" is also tightly wound physically. This

drama about knowing how to act is full of action. Nothing over the top, but there's plenty of movement to go with the characters' moving confessions and accusations. There's one moment where both Neil and Jesse hop excitedly on their bed at the same moment, and it's as enchanted as if they did a full-scale dance routine. Some of their verbal exchanges have the fluidity of a waltz.

Director David Mendizábil staged another politically charged gay romance in Connecticut not long ago, Ricardo Pérez González's "On the Grounds of Belonging" at the Long Wharf in New Haven in 2019. That show, set in the segregated South in the 1950s, was much more stylized and distant, while "This Bitter Earth" is more contemporary and open. It's generally less theatrical, though the sex scenes have the same tasteful artificiality, carefully contrived so you see a lot of Jesse and Neil without seeing everything. The shifts in time are conveyed subtly through lighting and sound effects.

"This Bitter Earth" is set just a few years ago, flashing back and forth in time from 2012 to 2015. The time frame is critical, charting the protests after Trayvon Martin's death but also happening years before George Floyd's. Riw Rakkulchon's scenic design captures that specific moment, exemplified by an iPod nano on a speaker charger on a shelf.

The décor has a well-heeled 20-something feel to it, and some audience members will undoubtedly be on the verge of asking themselves how much they could ever care about these guys in their impossibly clean GAP sweatshirts and pressed pants, fretting about meeting each other's parents. But Neil and Jesse are not the sort of



Damian Thompson, left, and Tom Holcomb star in Harrison David Rivers' politically tinged gay romance "This Bitter Earth" at TheaterWorks Hartford through March 20. MIKE MARQUES/COURTESY PHOTOS



Actors Holcomb, left, as Neil, and Thompson, as Jesse, laugh, love and fight in a realistic small bedroom setting.

self-indulgent quarreling lovers that have populated so many romances over the past 70 years or so. "This Bitter Earth" isn't just about people getting along, it's about how they get along in troubling times. Rivers has meshed a relationship drama with a worthwhile debate about social change and the need to speak out about injustice. The elements weave together beautifully, to the point

where Jesse and Neil aren't aware of which aspects of their public behavior may cause them the most harm. Rivers captures the random (and the specifically racist and anti-gay) violence of the world today while also carefully crafting a modulated, suspenseful, deeply emotional drama.

Again, this is something TheaterWorks Hartford is especially adept at. Recall the theater's

IF YOU GO: "This Bitter Earth" runs through March 20 at TheaterWorks Hartford, 233 Pearl St., Hartford. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. \$25-\$65. There is also a streaming-on-demand option, available March 7 to March 20 for \$20. twhartford.org.

triumphant production of Dominique Morisseau's "Sunset Baby" in 2017, which balanced radical political thinking with family bonding. With the exception of the holiday staple "Christmas on the Rocks," "This Bitter Earth" is the first in-person show to take place on TheaterWorks' accustomed 233 Pearl St. stage since the COVID shutdown of March 2020. It's a fitting return, not because it's splashy or saucy or silly (something else the theater can be good at) but because it's crisp and contemplative and credible, and is likely to have you deep in your own conversations from the moment the play ends.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

'Fitbit' murder trial jury selection to begin — again

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

Jury selection in the trial of a man charged with killing his wife after staging a home invasion is set to start Tuesday after a long delay.

Richard Dabate is accused of fatally shooting his wife, 39-year-old Connie Dabate, in December

2015 at their Ellington home.

Skeptical of Dabate's claims, police retrieved data from Connie Dabate's Fitbit, posts to social media and data from their home's alarm system that countered Richard Dabate's story. Police ultimately charged Dabate in April 2017 with murder, tampering with evidence and lying to police.

Jury selection was almost complete in March 2020, when the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Connecticut prompted a statewide shutdown, including deferral of in-person court hearings and trials. That jury did not hear any evidence, and a judge dismissed panel members in August 2021, finding that too much time had

elapsed since they were seated. Some of the selected jurors had moved in the intervening months, out of state in some instances.

The state judicial branch allowed jury trials to resume in June on the back of increasing vaccination numbers, but the Dabate case did not proceed immediately. Then Dabate's attor-

ney, Hubert J. Santos, died in June 2021.

Santos' partner, attorney Trent LaLima, is representing Dabate. Neither LaLima nor Tolland State's Attorney Matthew Gedansky could be reached Monday.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

NEWINGTON

Victims ID'd in double-fatal crash

Two people were killed in a four-vehicle crash in Newington Sunday, police said.

Police on Monday identified the victims as Mark Steiner, 61, of East Hampton, and Alexis Soto, 29, of Wethersfield.

The crash happened about 9:30 a.m. on East Cedar Street (Rt. 175) at Patricia M. Genova Drive, police said. A third person who suffered serious injuries was taken to a hospital for treatment. Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to call 860-594-6238.

— Jesse Leavenworth

Meriden company takes top bottled water prize

Associated Press

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — An Ohio water district has won the top prize for U.S. tap water at an international tasting contest.

Montpelier, Ohio, took home first place for Best Municipal Water on Saturday at the 32nd annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting in West Virginia. It beat out last year's winner, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which placed second. Another California entry, the Mission Springs Water District, was third.

All three have won the gold medal previously.

"The consistency in winners from year to year with different panels of judges validates the choices," water expert Arthur von Wiesenberger said in a statement. "It also speaks to the impressively high caliber of the waters entered."

The top bottled water award went to Vortex Energy of Meriden, Connecticut. Halstead Springs of Speedwell, Tennessee, finished second and there was a tie for third between Asagiri no Shizuku of Shizuku, Japan, and Smeraldina Still Water of Sardinia, Italy.



FILE

The sparkling water gold medal went to Big West Sparkling Spring Water of Victoria, Australia.

Judges based their rankings on taste, odor, mouth feel and after-taste. Nine judges chose from among entries in 16 states, three Canadian provinces and eight other countries.

FARMINGTON

Armed robbery at gas station

Two robbers, one armed with a handgun, hit a Farmington gas station Sunday night.

Wearing masks, the pair entered Scott's Village Mobil, 843 Farmington Ave., at about 10:10 p.m.

The thief with the gun demanded cash and merchandise and the two then fled, police said. No one was hurt.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. McKeown at 860-675-2463, or the anonymous tip line at 860-675-BITE (2483).

— Jesse Leavenworth

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www.lawsilver.com john@lawsilver.com



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lucy Gryszkiewicz Drozd (21-00914)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 23, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
KINGA A KOSTANIAK, REMBISH & LASARACINA, LLC, 31 HIGH STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Donald S. Brodeur, Late of Old Saybrook (22-0061)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Marc Brodeur
c/o JANE R MARSH, LAW OFFICES OF JANE R MARSH, LLC, 6 ELM ST, DEEP RIVER, CT 06417
Donald S. Brodeur, Jr.
c/o JANE R MARSH, LAW OFFICES OF JANE R MARSH, LLC, 6 ELM ST, DEEP RIVER, CT 06417
Christopher T. Brodeur
c/o JANE R MARSH, LAW OFFICES OF JANE R MARSH, LLC, 6 ELM ST, DEEP RIVER, CT 06417
3/1/2022 7158550

LEGAL NOTICE OF DECISION
TOWN OF DEEP RIVER PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

At its virtual Regular Meeting of Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., the Deep River Planning and Zoning Commission made the following decisions:

Denied: Subdivision Application, one lot subdivision of 164 Cedar Lake Road (Map 16, Lot 2A); Applicant: Ronald Pristly;

Approved: Text Amendment to Zoning Regulations, Section 7B.11, Accessory Apartments; Applicant: Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission.

Approved: Text Amendment to Subdivision Regulations, Section 5.8, Open Space; Applicant: Deep River Planning & Zoning Commission.

Approved: Site Plan Application, General Commercial/Retail Use with Caretaker dwelling unit, 68 Main Street. Applicant: Elizabeth Himmelman

Details of the decisions are available in the meeting minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Respectfully,
Anthony Bolduc
PZC Chairman
3/1/2022 7158714

City of Bristol, Connecticut
INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that the Purchasing Department for the City of Bristol, Connecticut is accepting sealed responses on the following:

2022-072 Microsoft Subscription Licensing Program for BOE; bids due March 14, 2022 at 11:00 am

Sealed responses via the QuestCDN online bidding system will be accepted until the due date and time as noted above. The City reserves the right to waive informalities in bid responses, and to accept any or all bid responses, if in its judgment the best interests of the City will be served. Submission of bid documents are subject to a \$15.00 bid posting fee payable to QuestCDN, the cost of which shall be borne solely by the bidder.

The successful bidder shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, or national origin.

Plans and specifications can be obtained online at the website below, or by contacting:

City of Bristol Purchasing Department
111 North Main St, Bristol, CT 06010
Tel. (860) 584-6195
Fax (860) 584-6171
http://www.bristolct.gov/bids
3/1/2022 7157662

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jeremy J. Simms (22-00161)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Joshua Simms, 76 Hatch Street, New Britain, CT 06053

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

50 Olesen Rd
Wethersfield CT 06109
860-266-3184
Auction Date- March 8, 2022 1:00 PM
4235 Chris Bachtell House goods
3424 Dorothy Brancifort House goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
2/22, 3/1/2022 7147466

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Stephen Janczak (22-00089)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 23, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Sherry Mulhall
c/o JOHN C HEFFERNAN, HEFFERNAN LEGAL GROUP 433 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 114, WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

NOTICE

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

132 Siles Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109
860-916-0534
Auction Date- March 8, 2022 1:00 PM
312 Deborah Walsh House goods
352 Dawn Koonce House goods
364 Julio Cesar Mendez House goods
458 Jesus Ortiz House goods
314 Henshaw Inim House goods
The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storage-treasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
2/22, 3/1/2022 7151688

LEGAL NOTICE OF ACTION
TOWN OF SIMSBURY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –
REGULAR MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Simsbury took the following action(s) at its regular meeting held virtually on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom:

1 Approved with conditions, Application #22-01 of Bruce Hale, Applicant, for a variance pursuant to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations Section 3.5 to install an emergency generator in the front yard at the property located at 6 Caryn Lane (Assessor's Map D19, Block 617, and Lot 138), Zone R-40.

2 Approved with conditions, Application #22-02 of Geoffrey A. & Christine E. Giddins, Applicant, for a variance pursuant to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations Section 3.1.0 for the installation of a pool within the rear yard setback of the property located at 468 Firetown Road (Assessor's Map D03, Block 202, and Lot 001), Zone R-80.

A copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Planning Department, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, Connecticut for public inspection.

SIMSBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
3/1/22 7157918

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF William S. Hiltz (22-00157)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Lisa A. Lillis, CPA, 585 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT 06082

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Josephine Giarratana, AKA Giuseppina Giarratana (22-00160)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 24, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Salvatore Giarratana, 30 Wakefield Lane, Farmington, CT 06032

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Ramon Marquez (22-00155)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated February 23, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Heather Marquez
c/o JEANETTE MARIE DOSTIE, SUISMAN, SWBG, 2 UNION PLAZA, SUITE 200 PO BOX 1591, NEW LONDON, CT 06320

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Carol Marie Pelzer, Late of HIGGANUM (22-0052)


The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 16, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Helene Yates, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Marc Carotenuto
Michelle Weems
c/o PHRANCES LEVERTON SZEWCZYK, LAW OFFICE OF PHRANCES L SZEWCZYK, 100 RIVERVIEW CENTER, SUITE 130, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
3/1/2022 7158549





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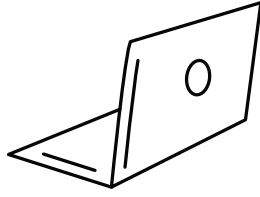
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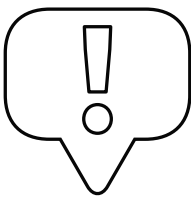
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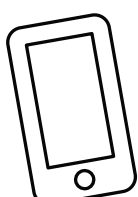
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————— Tribune Publishing Company —————

Perry adds elements to make film more fun

Creator hopes folks take laughter away from latest ‘Madea’

By Rodney Ho
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tyler Perry made a big splash in 2018, announcing he was retiring his signature character Madea after 20 years and 11 movies, which grossed more than \$500 million worldwide.

“I just don’t want to be her age playing her,” Perry said at the time.

Madea, inspired by his mom and an aunt, had served her purpose, and he wanted to focus on his many other projects.

But the craziness in 2020 changed his mindset.

“A little thing called COVID happened,” said Perry in a recent interview. “The pandemic and politics and all the division and all the unrest that was happening, I just wanted to make something to make people laugh and take their minds off all the reality.”

The result: “A Madea Homecoming,” now streaming on Netflix. The character has become iconic, a combination of wisdom and brashness that make Perry’s loyal fans cheer and detractors cringe.

This interview with Perry has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Did the idea of this movie come about after the pandemic began?

A: Yes. A little after that. I was watching how angry we all seemed and removed we all seemed from the world. I wanted to do something to speak to that.

Q: What was it like putting the Madea outfit back on after a couple of years’ break?



Tyler Perry returns as Madea in “A Madea Homecoming.” CHARLES BERGMANN/TYLER PERRY STUDIOS/NETFLIX

A: It’s old hat. It felt like what I’ve been doing for 20-something years. It was popping it on, getting it out there and getting it done. But I wanted to add some elements to it that would make it better for me and more fun, so having Brendon O’Carroll (who made a name for himself in the U.K. playing matriarch Agnes Brown on stage and on TV) as part of it because our careers were so parallel. He’s older than I am, but our birthdays are a couple of days apart. He was in Europe doing plays and television doing Mrs. Brown. I was in America at the same time. So when I found out about him and called him up, I said this was something we’ve got to do. The timing worked out.

Q: How did you hear about him?

A: I was doing this film “Brain on Fire,” and the director said, “Have you

ever heard of Mrs. Brown?” I said no, so I looked at clips on YouTube, and I was like, “Whoa!” I was looking at his history, and our careers and lives were so parallel. Pretty profound.

Q: Can you give a little teaser on what Madea fans should expect in this movie?

A: Her great-grandson is graduating, and he’s coming home, and he has a secret he wants to share with the family. Once he does, it opens up a lot of conversations. But more than anything, what I want people to take away from it is the laughter. I don’t want them to take it too seriously. Don’t dig in too hard. Just relax and go with the ride.

Q: When you think about Madea, do you feel she has evolved in any way?

A: I’ve tried to keep her as close to what’s she’s always been. I didn’t want to water

her down or change her too much. In this movie, I’ve allowed her to go as far as she’s ever gone and say things she’s never said. But you have to be sensitive of a lot of things going on now for sure.

Q: Your first 11 Madea films were released in movie theaters mostly in the United States. This is the first time Madea is getting a worldwide debut at the same time.

A: That’s the magic of Netflix. I’m really really excited about it because I want to see what that feels like ... After all these years of being told that Black movies don’t travel, that they don’t do well overseas, to have a movie released all over the world and be able to get that real-time data is really powerful.

Q: Why did you decide to work with Netflix instead of staying with Lionsgate and release the movies in

theaters?

A: It’s just the time and the day and how much things have changed. My hope is that theaters are around forever because I want my son and his son to have that experience in a movie theater with a big giant screen. Some movies are meant to be seen that way. But to be with a streamer as big as Netflix, from my first meeting I had with them, I was blown away by their approach to everything, what they know about diversity and being the company that they are, I was excited to work with them, and it’s been great.

Q: Did your first Netflix movie “A Fall From Grace” shape how you approached this second film?

A: I think it shaped a lot more of their process than mine. I don’t think they were aware of how successful it would be. It was enormously successful for them, and I think it

just opened the doors for a lot of other things, which is great. And being such a small movie that we did so quickly and have it do so well is really powerful. I always knew what I could bring to the table. I think now with them understanding what I can do, it has shifted a few things, that’s for sure.

Q: “Don’t Look Up” received a best picture Oscar nomination. Are you surprised, having been involved in that project (as morning host Jack Bremmer)?

A: I’m grateful for Adam (McKay) who wrote it. The more nominations like that you get, the more eyeballs you get. I hope it raises more awareness of where we are and what we are doing.

Q: What’s your thought process when people approach you to do acting gigs that aren’t your projects? I presume you get a lot.

A: I really don’t! I have to feel like it’s a director I want to work with, the story I want to do and timing, how much time would they need. For that role, it was like 12 days.

Q: Is there a new genre of movie or TV show you might pursue down the road?

A: Sci-fi, those kind of movies I would love. Doing “Star Trek” I loved. I’m there in a heartbeat. I have interest there. It depends on the character. If the character is going to be dark and crazy, I’m not necessarily interested in that.

Q: So could a Tyler Perry sci-fi movie happen?

A: I have written a sci-fi movie that I’ve been holding onto, so we’ll see.

CELEBRITIES

‘CODA’ takes top SAG Award honors

From news services

In an upset, the deaf family drama “CODA” took top honors at an unpredictable and history-making 28th Screen Actors Guild Awards that also saw wins for the leads of “Squid Game,” the cast of “Ted Lasso” and Will Smith.

Sunday’s ceremony was notably border-breaking, with historic wins for deaf actors, Korean stars and some of Hollywood’s biggest names. It culminated with “CODA,” Sian Heder’s Apple TV+ coming-of-age film featuring deaf actors Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur and Daniel Durant, along with newcomer Emilia Jones, winning best ensemble.

“This validates the fact that we, deaf actors, can work just like anybody else. We look forward to more opportunities for deaf actors,” Matlin said on stage.

Kotsur won best supporting actor, becoming the first deaf actor to win an individual SAG award.

Ariana DeBose of “West Side Story” won best supporting actress, the first openly queer woman to win an individual film SAG award. “It’s an honor to be seen, it’s an honor to be an Afro-Latina, an openly queer woman of color, a dancer, a singer and an actor,” she said in a virtual backstage media room.

Will Smith, star of the tennis drama “King Richard,” took best actor, scoring his first SAG award. Jessica Chastain, who plays the infamous televangelist in “The Eyes of Tammy Faye,” won for best actress, notching her first individual SAG award.

Netflix’s “Squid Game,” the first non-English language series nominated by the actors guild, took home three awards, including Lee Jung-jae for best male actor in a drama series and Jung Hyeon



Troy Kotsur, from left, Sian Heder, Daniel Durant, Emilia Jones, Marlee Matlin and Eugenio Derbez won for the film “CODA” at the SAG Awards on Sunday. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION

for best female actor in a drama series. Still, HBO’s “Succession” ultimately reigned in the drama series category as best ensemble.

“Ted Lasso” was named best comedy series ensemble, and its star Jason Sudeikis won best actor in a comedy series for the title role. Other TV awards went to Jean Smart of “Hacks,” Kate Winslet of “Mare of Easttown,” and Michael Keaton of “Dopesick.”

The SAG Awards can be streamed on HBO Max.

Hudson wins Image Awards’ top honor:

Jennifer Hudson was named entertainer of the year at the 53rd annual NAACP Image Awards that highlighted works by entertainers and writers of color. After Hudson accepted the award Saturday, the singer-actor thanked the NAACP for inspiring “little girls like me.” She beat out Regina King, Lil Nas X, Megan Thee Stallion and Tiffany Haddish.

“Now, I’m standing here holding an award like this,” said the Oscar and Grammy winner. “It’s because of seeing the Arethas, the Patti LaBelles,

the Halle Berrys, all these legends right here on this stand that inspired me.”

Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, were honored with the President’s Award. Samuel L. Jackson received the NAACP Chairman’s Award for his public service.

Anthony Anderson, who returned as the show’s host, won best actor in a comedy series.

Other top awards handed out include Will Smith, who won best actor for his role in “King Richard,” and “The Harder They Fall,” which took home best film. Issa Rae won for best comedy series, and Nikole Hannah-Jones was honored with the social justice impact award.

March 1 birthdays: Actor Robert Clary is 96. Singer Harry Belafonte is 95. Singer Roger Daltrey is 78. Director Ron Howard is 68. Actor Tim Daly is 66. Actor Russell Wong is 59. Actor Javier Bardem is 53. Actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar is 48. Actor Jensen Ackles is 44. Actor Lupita Nyong’o is 39. Singer Justin Bieber is 28.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Online relationship may be ‘romance scam’

Dear Amy: I met a young woman online about eight months ago and have messaged her regularly. We also have video calls because she lives in the Philippines.

Long story short — she has a lot of issues with employment due to COVID-19, she has no family, her area was devastated by a typhoon, she has few friends, and health issues.

She received a job offer in Canada, and the company was going to pay for her airfare and put her up in company housing. She was supposed to start next month.

I helped her to buy clothing and prepare for the move, but now she has been diagnosed with medical problems and has to take a six-month treatment regimen for uterine cysts.

I feel more of a father figure than a boyfriend and just feel a lot of pain for her. I am wondering how long I should help her financially. Should I cut the cord and tell her I cannot do this anymore?

Although I could afford to help her, it is financially and emotionally draining.

To top it off, I am 69 years old, and she is 26.

— Concerned

Dear Concerned: I am genuinely sorry to be the bearer of this news, but every detail you have supplied about this person points to the likelihood that you are the victim of a “romance scam.”

The missed opportunity for employment, the devastating typhoon, the near-miss move to North America — all of these dramatic episodes are designed to bait the hook

and then to keep you on the hook, supplying more funds with each new drama that disrupts the relationship.

Even the nature of her sudden-onset medical problems is a classic “tell.”

The global pandemic has devastated the well-laid and legitimate plans of many, but it has also created opportunities for scammers to take advantage of big-hearted people. AARP.org has a number of helpful articles describing current scams targeting older people. (Do a search using keywords “romance scams.”)

Quoting its helpful advice: “Rule Number One: Never send money to someone you’ve never met in person.”

AARP also has a Fraud Watch Network Hotline (877-908-3360). I called and spoke with a telephone counselor, who without judgment asked a number of easy-to-answer questions. Callers are then connected with a fraud specialist who can give advice about what you are dealing with and how to handle the relationship.

Scammers often slip under the radar because victims are too embarrassed to talk about it, but elders are finding ways to take back their power — and I hope you will, too.

Dear Amy: I’ve been undeniably balding since college. I feel that I’ve always had a healthy attitude about accepting this inevitability.

Now, at 33, if you ask me, I fully understand and acknowledge that I’m a cue-ball surrounded by a horseshoe of luxuriously short-cropped brunettes

hair (picture Prince William).

My problem is that my wife showed me a picture the other day (completely unrelated to my hair), and I was dumbfounded by how bald I was!

How can I help myself to fully grasp my baldness?

— Bald in Oregon

Dear Bald: I think most of us have had an experience of catching a reflection and wondering who that person is peeking back.

I am intrigued by your question, and I appreciate your desire to accept your glorious self.

One solution might be to tape the photo near your mirror, alongside fellow handsome bald men (Prince William, Terry Crews, Justin Timberlake, Jason Statham, Stanley Tucci, Dwayne Johnson, et al). Say an affirmation: “I’m a bald boss!” and see if that doesn’t help to start your day with a boom.

Dear Amy: I didn’t like my response to “Concerned Father,” who wanted to buy a house for his son and daughter-in-law, who were not good at managing their finances because the daughter-in-law is a spendthrift. You called this man out for not recognizing his son’s depression.

Didn’t it occur to you that the son is depressed because of his wife?

— You Missed It

Dear Missed: Clinical depression is a disease, not an attitude.

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Jamaica’s reggae artists found her rhythm

Japanese woman created pattern heard in ‘Under Mi Sleng Teng’ that influenced genre

By Yuri Kageyama
Associated Press

A musical revolution in Jamaica has a connection with a bouncy rhythm from a portable electronic keyboard that’s the brain-child of a Japanese woman. The pattern that resonates in the 1985 reggae hit by Wayne Smith, “Under Mi Sleng Teng,” came from Casiotone MT-40, which went on sale in 1981, the first product Hiroko Okuda worked on after joining the Tokyo-based company behind G-Shock watches. “It’s really like my first child, and the child turned out so well it’s outright moving,” said Okuda, honored as “the mother of Sleng Teng” among the hard-core reggae aficionados.

Sleng Teng is a form of digital Jamaican music that began in the mid-1980s, part of the rich repertoire of the disco-like genre called “dancehall.” No one contests the key role played by artists such as Smith and King Jammy, as well as the humble, battery-operated, \$150 MT-40.

One of the rhythm patterns Okuda created called “rock” on the MT-40 evolved into “Sleng Teng riddim.”

As legend goes, Noel Davey, the Grammy-winning keyboard player for the Marley Brothers, got an MT-40 from a friend, who picked it up in California. Before, Davey was blowing into a Melodica portable keyboard for that sound.

Davey was toying around with the MT-40 and chanced upon the beat that’s in Smith’s megahit “Under Mi Sleng Teng.”

And the rest is history, so to speak.

“You don’t plan,” Davey said, when asked about that moment.

There are so many buttons on the MT-40, he was “fooling around,” found it, lost it, then had to look for it and found it again. “It was a searching process,” he said from Kingston, Jamaica. The power of reggae comes from its healing effect, like “therapy,” being a music for the poor, for those moving up against apartheid, for the people, he said. Davey, who has never been to Japan, said he would like to meet Okuda. The two share something in common — just as he feels he has never been properly credited for his role in the history of reggae, he stressed Okuda deserves credit for the Casio instrument. That groove went on to inspire much of subsequent reggae, distinctly heard in works by Sugar Minott, Ibo Cooper, Gregory Isaacs and Dennis Brown.

Michael “Megabhass” Fletcher, a musician in Jamaica, said repetitive music isn’t inferior. “It has its place,” he said, demonstrating Sleng Teng on his bass. “A good song is a good song.”

Fletcher said other keyboards were also used to play Sleng Teng, such as a Casio CZ-101 and Yamaha DX100, from Casio’s Japanese rival.

“Sleng Teng will never die,” said Fletcher, who has performed or produced songs for Shaggy, Maxi Priest and Alborosie.

Okuda, whose graduation thesis at Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo was on reggae, was among the first recruits at Casio Computer Co. assigned to work on musical instruments, then a new sector for the company.

The company didn’t have many musicians, and she was the one with a background in world music. Okuda had immersed herself in reggae in the late 1970s, including going to Bob Marley’s concerts in Japan. Okuda worked out six kinds of rhythms for the MT-40, including samba, swing and waltz, creating a bass line and a beat. She also created two licks called “fill ins” to be played between sections of a song — or at the start of a song, as it is in “Under Mi Sleng Teng.”



Hiroko Okuda holds the Casiotone MT-40 portable keyboard player on Feb. 9 in Tokyo. CASIO COMPUTER CO.

For the prototype, she initially had an even more brash punk-rock-like rhythm called “avant garde.” The managers nixed it as “too crazy.” At least the “rock” pattern got approved, Okuda recalled with a laugh. Casio’s main business

was calculators, not keyboards, and so Okuda’s invention didn’t make much of a wave at her company.

Okuda said she was usually among a handful of women in a room filled with men.

“I was a pioneer in so many places, and there were Japan’s old ways everywhere I went. I had to put up a fight each time,” she said.

She was never promoted to managerial positions and never chosen for a business trip abroad. She has not traveled to Jamaica, or anywhere else except for China.

When asked if she has any advice for working women, Okuda pointed out having a special skill tends to help. She also has an extremely supportive husband, who took

on much of the child care responsibilities. That definitely helped, she said.

The family shares a love for music, and music is always playing in their house. When they were younger, Okuda did feel a bit sad when her daughter and son would see her off at the door, singing, “Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it’s work she loves to go,” to the tune featured in the Walt Disney animated film “Snow White.” These days, they joke maybe she’ll win a Nobel Prize for the MT-40.

A more recent Casio technology Okuda has worked on is Music Tapes-try, which translates music being played into a fluid visual image on the computer. Flowers float and swirl in time to the notes. Circles, squares and triangles dance about on

the screen. But the technology doesn’t have a release date yet.

She doubts any of the reggae musicians know she is behind the MT-40. And how her MT-40 became part of such great music is nothing short of “a miracle,” she said.

“If I can ever meet them, I just want to express my deep gratitude. I want to tell them thank you so much for finding the rhythm and for using it,” she said.

The Casio Computer Co. still sells keyboards. The CT-S1000V, set to go on sale in March, turns words into vocaloid-like singing. The smaller portable versions come with dozens of preset rhythms.

In the 2010 model, the rock pattern was called “MT-40 riddim” in honor of where it all began.

TV Q&A

Where else can Kinney be seen?

By Rich Heldenfels
Tribune News Service

Q: I would like to know more about the actor who plays Kelly Severide on “Chicago Fire.” I don’t recall seeing him on any series before.

A: Besides the “Chicago” series, Taylor Kinney has been seen in TV series and movies such as “Trauma,” “The Vampire Diaries” and “Zero Dark Thirty,” but appears to like keeping things low-key (even during a romance with Lady Gaga that ended several years ago). His official NBC biography is terse, listing just a handful of roles and a People’s Choice Award for favorite dramatic actor in 2016.

USA Today in 2012 summed up his early years this way: “Raised in Lancaster, Pa., by a single mother who worked as a dental hygienist, Kinney had no connection to Hollywood. In his sophomore year at West Virginia University, Kinney took an elective theater course that ‘held my interest outside of the classroom more so than any other subject I’d ever taken.’ ... He left school after his junior year, and after spending a year in Hawaii learning to surf, skydive and frame houses ... Kinney moved to Los Angeles and began auditioning.” Even after his acting career took off, he told USA Today, “I like walking around the woods and riding a motorcycle by myself for hours at a time and not talking about work all the time.”

Q: I was wondering if the game show host Bert Convy was still around.

A: Convy died in 1991 at age 57 after battling cancer. According to the Associated Press, he had been a professional baseball player and a musician. As part of the group the Cheers, he scored a



Actor Taylor Kinney plays Kelly Severide on the NBC series “Chicago Fire.” KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/GETTY-AFP 2019

hit with “Black Denim Trousers and Motorcycle Boots” in 1955. He went on to acting, including on Broadway, and in movies and TV. But for many, the affable performer was best known for hosting game shows including “Tattle-tales” (where he won a daytime Emmy), “Super Password” and “Win, Lose or Draw.”

Q: My husband and I have enjoyed “Foyle’s War.” Foyle’s driver was played by Honeysuckle Weeks. We watch the reruns before “Magnum P.I.” The girl on that show is Perdita Weeks! What relationship do the two women have?

A: Sisterhood. Honeysuckle Weeks, who played driver Samantha Stewart on “Foyle’s War” during its 2002-2015 run, is the older sister of Perdita Weeks, who plays Juliet Higgins on the current version of “Magnum.”

Q: My wife is a huge “American Housewife” fan, but doesn’t know what happened to the show. Do you know its status?

A: The enjoyable comedy starring Katy Mixon was canceled in 2021 after five seasons; several reports called that a surprise

because the ratings were still OK. But the show had hit some bumps late in its run.

Deadline reported in December 2020 that Carly Hughes, the only Black regular on the series at the time, left the show over what she called a “toxic environment” and “discrimination.” After an investigation sparked by Hughes’ comments, “‘American Housewife’ creator Sarah Dunn is no longer an active producer on the show, Mark J. Greenberg stepped down as line producer, and show-runners Rick Wiener and Kenny Schwartz underwent sensitivity training,” Deadline said.

Also, Julia Butters, who played Anna-Kat, left the show to pursue other opportunities. (Giselle Eisenberg replaced her.) You can find repeats of “Housewife” on CMT and Hulu. Beginning this fall, look for episodes to air on local stations as part of a syndication deal.

Do you have a question or comment about entertainment past, present and future? Write to Rich Heldenfels, P.O. Box 417, Mogadore, OH 44260, or brenfels@gmail.com. Letters may be edited.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): People could be begging for your attention, but don’t be surprised if you find yourself preferring to be on your own. Your social sector might have brought both new and familiar faces your way. Feel free to sit down and smell the roses by yourself.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): The sky’s the limit right now, Taurus! However, this energy could fade, so give yourself permission to clock out and see what everyone else is up to. It’s OK to take some downtime. Consider getting together with some pals and leaving your responsibilities on the back burner.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): There’s a sense of freedom in the air at this time. Your vision can become more focused, helping you to get serious about important matters and leave any unnecessary bits behind. Put a premium on finishing your day on a strong note — you’ll achieve a lot if you cut out the excess.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Life might feel rather intense right now! Try to get out and about for a few hours this evening, perhaps by trying a new restaurant from another culture, or watching a film from a different genre than you’d usually choose. New experiences can do wonders for you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Equality is the name of the game, at the moment. The Moon is busy completing her visit to your 7th house of Partnership and Contracts, helping you think in terms of “we” rather than “me.” If there’s anyone you would like to be closer to in any way, this is a great day to reach out to them.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your life is buzzing with efficiency right now making it a good idea to touch base with the important people in your life. If your equilibrium feels rather off, do what you can to regain your balance, especially as it pertains to any relationships or connections.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Life could feel like a party at first today, but there will be a noticeable shift in the current energy. You might have to buckle down and get ready for things to take a sudden turn for the somewhat serious. It’s a good time to get organized after a hedonistic couple of days.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spending some time puttering around the house could help you at the moment, regardless of anything else you have going on. Do something that makes you feel good and lets you express yourself. Serious matters can probably wait until tomorrow to get your attention.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Things start off on a busy note, keeping you on your toes — but that won’t last forever, making this a good time for you to ground yourself. Instead of hitting the town, consider spending the night on the couch. Ordering takeout and watching a favorite film might be just what the doctor ordered.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have got your mind on your money currently, but that doesn’t mean the whole day will be about counting coins. By the afternoon, make it a point to shake things up and head out for a night on the town, preferably with a few friends in tow. Good times await you!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be deep in your feelings first thing today. You could get more clarity and be better able to focus on the facts. If you’ve been slacking off lately, you might want to make sure that you aren’t letting anything slip through the cracks. Do your due diligence!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Life may feel as hazy as any dream this morning, and you aren’t in a hurry to change that. You might get jolted with energy! Don’t be shocked if things feel different. Focus on setting goals for yourself, because you’re entering a powerful new phase and shouldn’t waste opportunities.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On March 1, 1815, Napoleon, having escaped exile in Elba, arrived in Cannes, France.

In 1893, inventor Nikola Tesla first publicly demonstrated radio during a

meeting of the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis.

In 1932, Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh, was kidnapped from the family home near Hopewell, New Jersey.

In 2005, Dennis Rader, the churchgoing family man accused of leading a double

life as the BTK serial killer, was charged in Wichita, Kansas, with 10 counts of first-degree murder.

In 2010, Jay Leno returned as host of NBC’s “The Tonight Show.”

In 2015, tens of thousands marched through Moscow in honor of slain Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, who had been shot to death on Feb. 27.

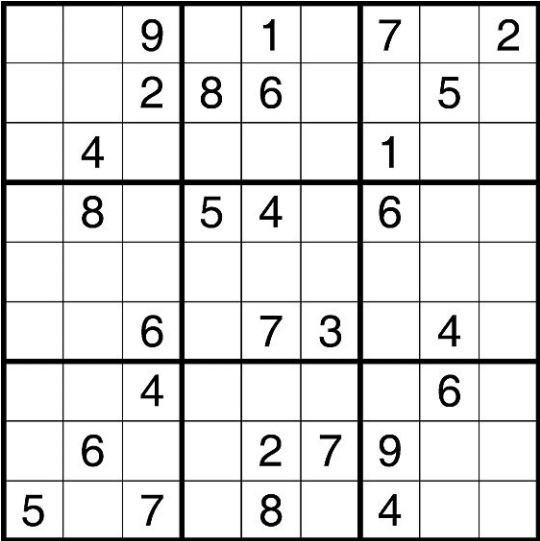
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



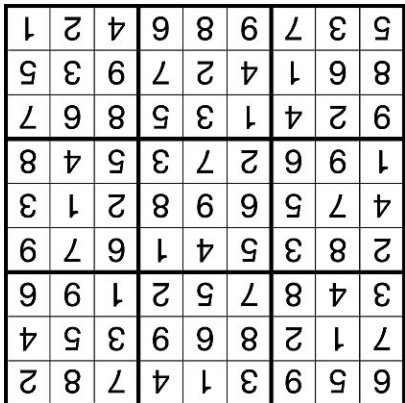
Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU



Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



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BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

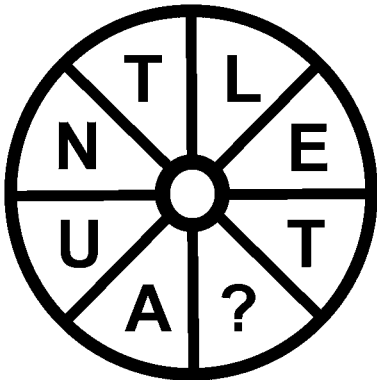
- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE U.S. STATE CAPITALS in the grid of letters.

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: toy time

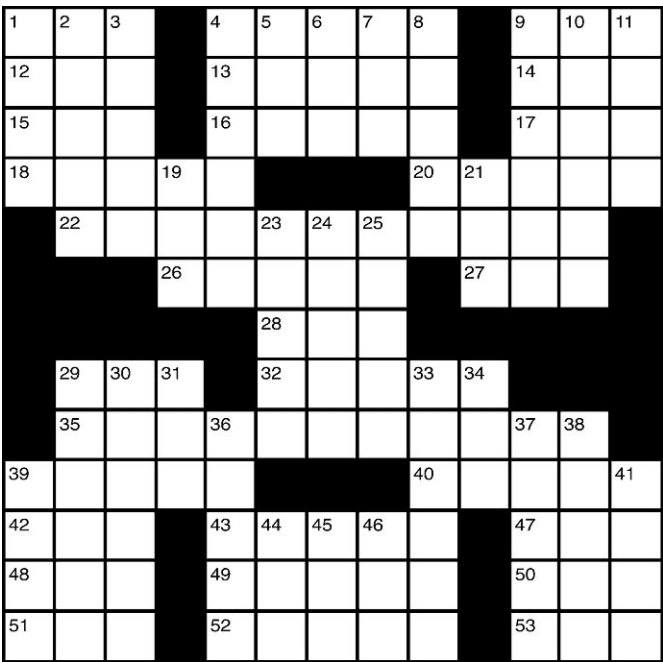
Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.



- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|-----------|
| ANIMALS | FRISBEE | MOTOR | SCRAPBOOK |
| BATS | GAMES | MUSIC | SKATES |
| BEAR | GLOBE | NETS | SLIDE |
| BICYCLE | GOLF | PENCIL | SWING |
| BOAT | HELMET | PLAYSET | TENT |
| BOUNCER | HOOP | POOL | THOMAS |
| BRUSH | JIGSAW | PROJECT | TRAIN |
| BUBBLES | KITE | RACER | TRICK |
| BUGGY | KITSET | RADIO | TRIKE |
| CARS | LEGO | ROCKET | TRUCK |
| CASE | MAGNET | ROPE | WALLET |
| DIARY | MODEL | SCOOTER | WATCH |
| DOLL | MONOPOLY | SCRABBLE | YACHT |

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/27/16

ACROSS

- "...! Humbug!"
- Bartok and Lugosi
- Rebecca's husband on "Return to Amish"
- Montgomery's state: abbr.
- ... legislation; make laws
- "Apocalypse ..."; Marlon Brando movie
- Setting for "Bonanza": abbr.
- On an ocean voyage
- 180° from SSW
- Actor Baio
- "Saved by the Bell: The New ..."
- Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- "If that happens, I'll eat ...!"; phrase from skeptic
- "...: Cyber"
- Actor ... Brynner
- "... Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!"
- Actress and comedian Anne
- TLC series about the Brown family
- New ..., India
- Hold in high regard; cherish



12/4/16

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11/27/16

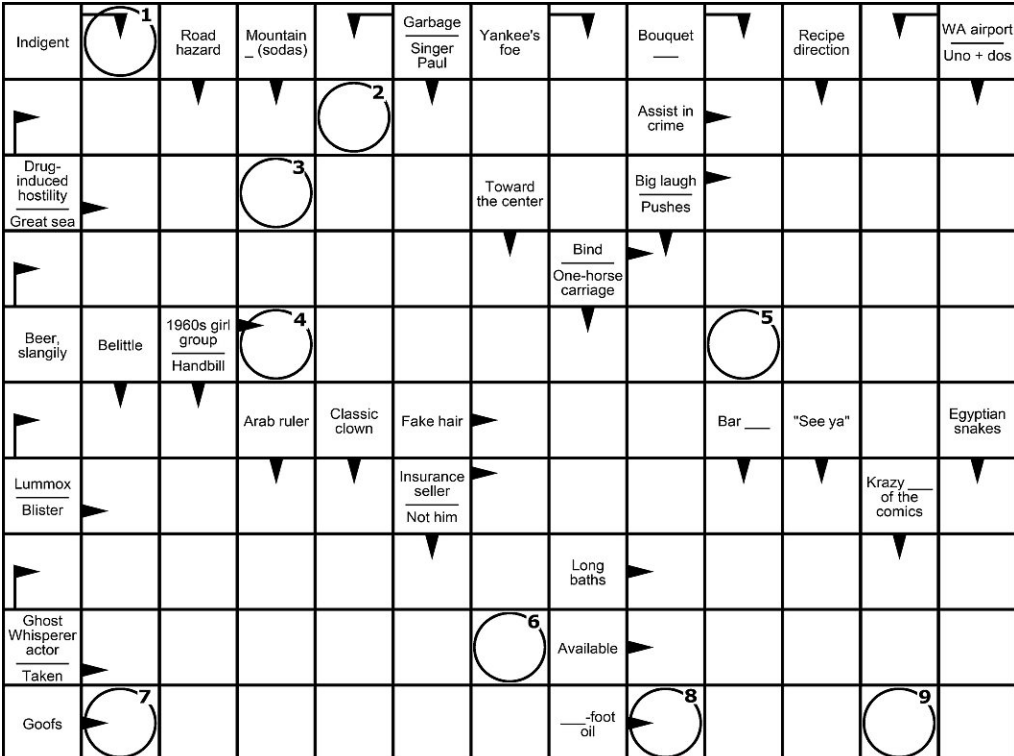
- "Please Don't ... the Daisies"
- Bart's mom
- Womanizer
- ... Lanka
- ... Fudd; Bugs Bunny's nemesis
- "... Got a Secret"
- Suffix for text or percent
- ... away; dismisses
- Lion's lair

DOWN

- Prohibits
- Guinness and Baldwin
- Actress June ...
- Ned or Warren
- Suffix for differ or exist
- "... Vegas"
- "... Ventura: Pet Detective"; Jim Carrey movie
- Robert of "Unsolved Mysteries"
- Historical records
- Shapely Japanese tree in a pot
- Mothers of lambs
- Selleck or Cruise
- Jean-... Picard; role in "Star Trek" films
- Cooking herb
- Jack ...; lead role on "24"
- "Harvey Birdman, Attorney ..."; animated courtroom series
- "My Name ..."; Jason Lee sitcom
- "Uncle ..."; Berle's nickname
- Bit of sooty residue
- Joan or Melissa
- Wife to Mickey, Artie and Frank
- "Good ..."; Jimmie Walker series
- Classic film for Charlton Heston
- Debonair; smooth
- Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
- ... Sher of "The Middle"
- Tavern order
- ...HST, DDE, JFK, LBJ, ...
- High school equivalency test, for short

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

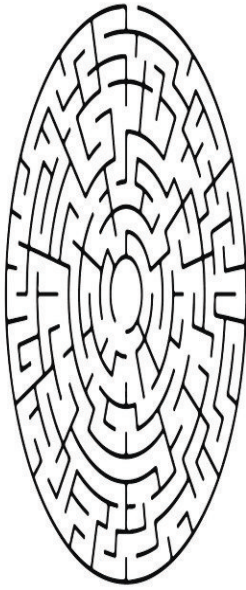
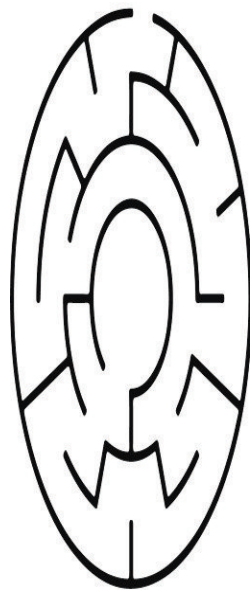


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6/6/20

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

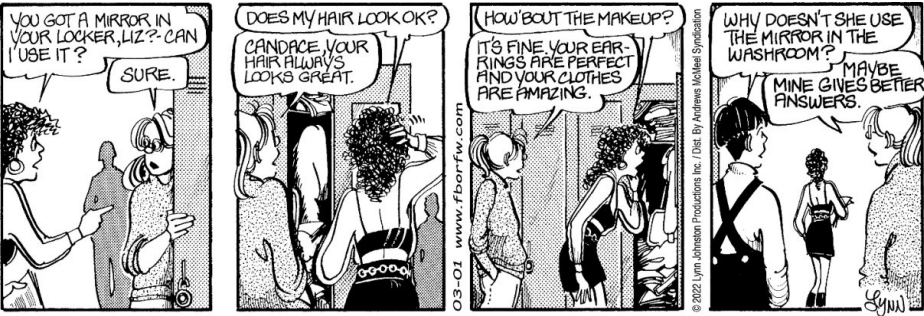
KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Find the ten differences between the two pictures.



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



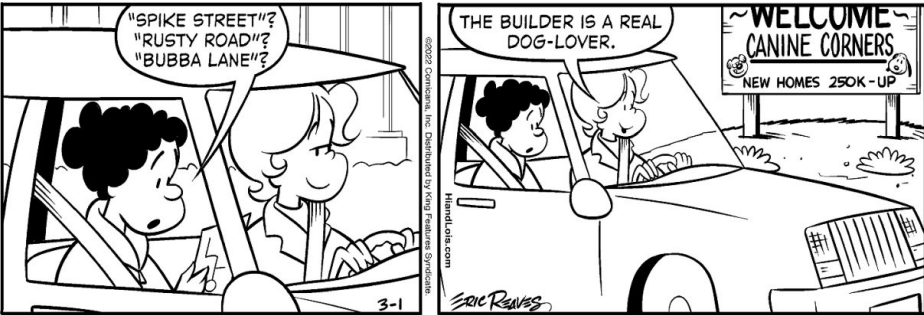
B.C. By Hart



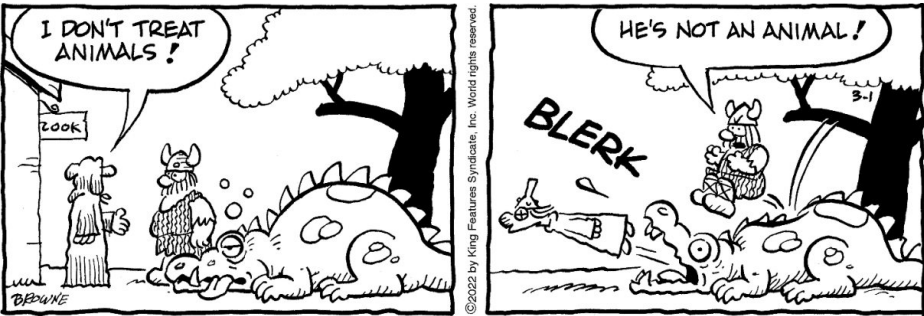
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



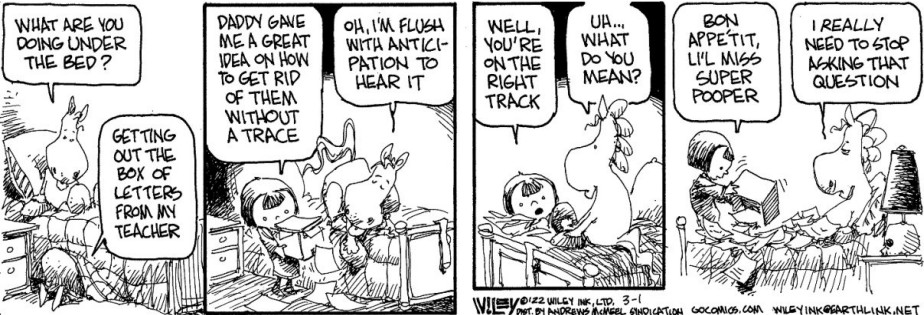
Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



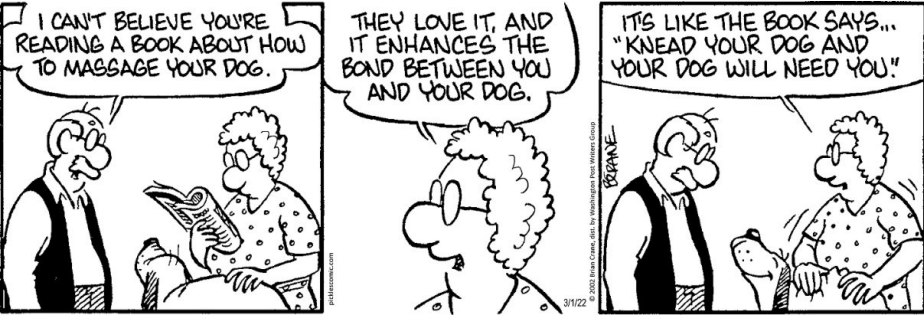
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



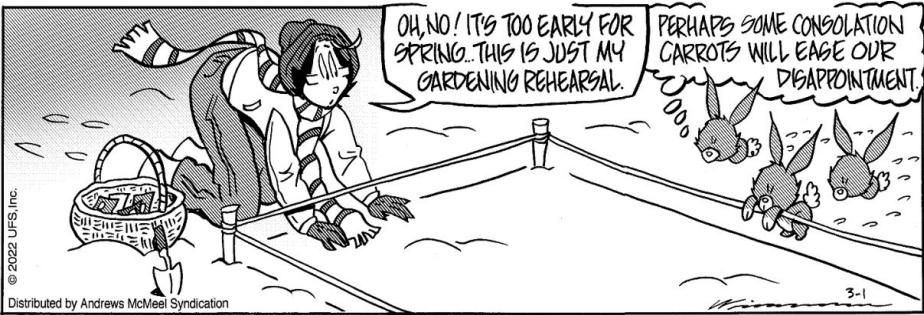
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



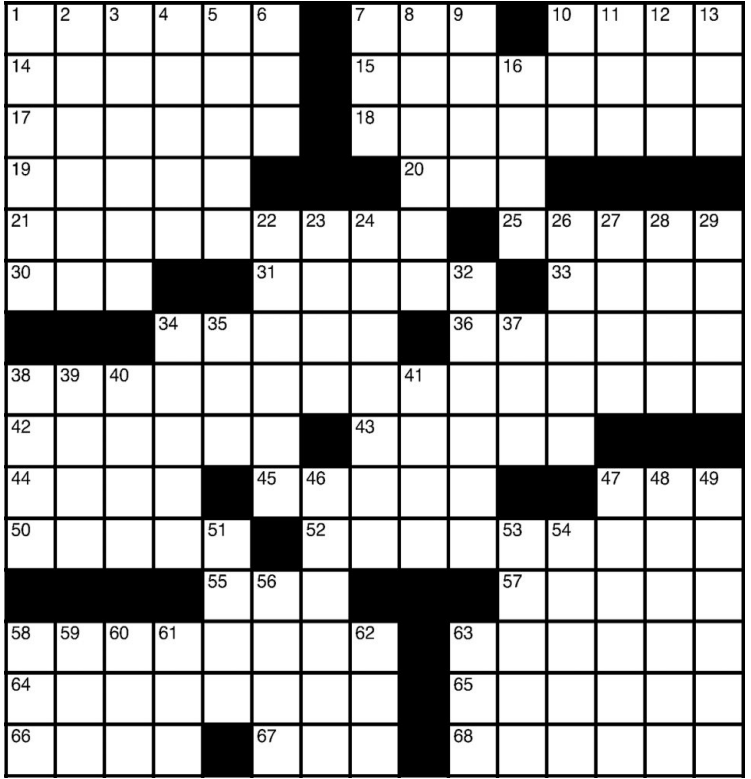
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Gaming site whose machines originally took pennies
 - 7 Invite (to)
 - 10 Serve, as coffee
 - 14 Jumped
 - 15 Wide-angle view
 - 17 Mom or dad
 - 18 Sequence of missed calls
 - 19 Pitcher's control, say
 - 20 Wood-splitting tool
 - 21 Place for Oreos
 - 25 Extra
 - 30 New England cape
 - 31 Fountain offerings
 - 33 When tied NFL games may be decided
 - 34 Spanish folk hero
 - 36 Does some self-grooming, as a bird
 - 38 Let it slide
 - 42 Counsel
 - 43 Things one can't do without
 - 44 Bearing
 - 45 Salt or fresh follower
 - 47 Mayo, por ejemplo
 - 50 North Atlantic hazards
 - 52 Wallet or purse alternative
 - 55 "What was ___ do?"
 - 57 Lord's home
 - 58 Fashionable group ... and what the starts of 18-, 21-, 38- and 52-Across form
- Down**
- 1 Andes grazer
 - 2 Motive
 - 3 Novelist McCullers
 - 4 Sneak ___: look secretly
 - 5 Teeth: Pref.
 - 6 Georgia summer hrs.
 - 7 Uber or Lyft
 - 8 African desert
 - 9 Kentucky fort
 - 10 Eminent leader?
 - 11 Cereal grain
 - 12 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
 - 13 Torn old shirt, perhaps
 - 16 Small bills
 - 22 Avoid
 - 23 ___ de vivre
 - 24 Expand, as a house
 - 26 Places to fish from
 - 27 From the beginning
 - 28 Gossip columnist Barrett
 - 29 Website featuring crafts
 - 32 Ball shape
 - 34 Barely managing, with "by"
 - 35 Sgt.'s superiors
 - 37 Color suggesting anger
 - 38 Mary's was little
 - 39 Drooling comics dog
 - 40 Done
 - 41 High schooler, usually
 - 46 Microscopic organism
 - 47 Household, from the French
 - 48 Marries in secret
 - 49 Emphasize
 - 51 Remains on the shelf
 - 53 Some youth ctrs.
 - 54 Structures raised by Amish
 - 56 Peter the Great, e.g.
 - 58 Enjoy Aspen
 - 59 Chess pieces
 - 60 Big initials in bowling
 - 61 Friend of Pooh
 - 62 President pro ___
 - 63 Mexican Mrs.



By Jerry Edelstein Tribune Content Agency 3/1/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠	A Q 9 5	♠	6 4
♥	A 8 4	♥	9 6 3 2
♦	J 10	♦	K 7 4 3
♣	Q 7 4 3	♣	A 8 6
WEST		SOUTH	
♠	7 3	♠	K J 10 8 2
♥	K J 10 5	♥	Q 7
♦	8 6 5 2	♦	A Q 9
♣	K 10 2	♣	J 9 5

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Opening lead — two of diamonds.

The best way to skin a cat

On many hands, declarer cannot overcome a bad lie of the adverse cards and so can only hope that they will be divided favorably. But there are also times when he can succeed despite an unlucky distribution, and these are the times that test his mettle.

Consider this deal where West leads a diamond against four spades, declarer winning East's king with the ace. South sees four potential losers — three clubs and a heart — and immediately starts looking for a way to eliminate one of them.

One possibility, after drawing trump, is to lead a low heart from dummy toward his queen. If East has the king and takes it, South will eventually get rid of a club loser on the ace; if East does not take his king, he loses it.

Another possibility is to attack clubs by leading a low one toward dummy's queen. If the queen loses to East's king or ace,

South will still have the J-9 left and can later lead a club from dummy toward his hand and perhaps score a club trick.

As the cards lie, neither of these approaches succeeds against best defense, and South would go down one. However, declarer can assure the contract if he plays correctly. After drawing trump, he cashes the Q-9 of diamonds, discarding a heart from dummy, and then plays the ace and another heart.

This leaves South firmly in the driver's seat. The defender who wins the second heart with the king will have to yield a ruff-and-discard or else lead a club, establishing a club trick for declarer.

The suggested method of play totally eliminates the luck factor that appears to exist when dummy first comes down.

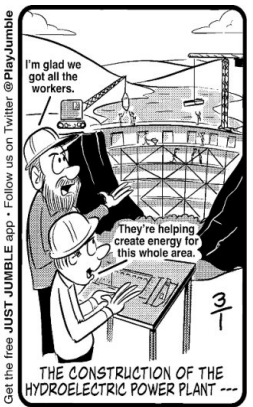
Tomorrow: The sure way is the best way.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LIAEG
PEWTS
LNBUED
URNJIO



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOMP KHAKI WEEKLY GOALIE
Answer: Their vacation in Florida's southernmost tourist destination was — LOW-KEY

TODAY'S SUDOKU

2	7		1	9				
	9				7	4	6	
	8	6					1	
				1				
7			2	8				3
			5					
	5					1	9	
	2	1	7				4	
			6	3		2	8	

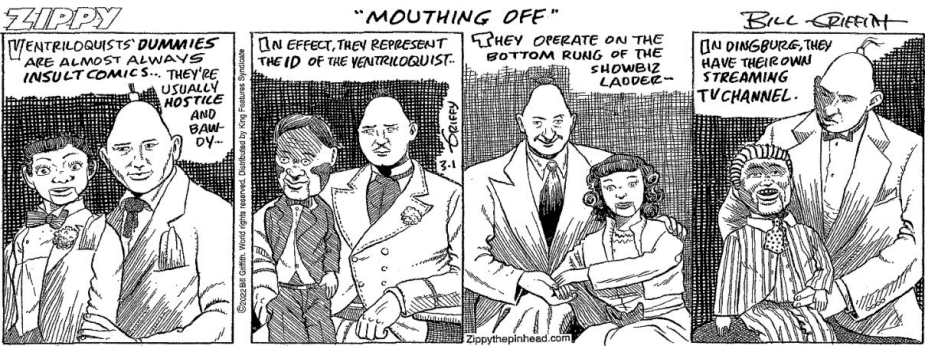
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

3	6	1	8	9	7	2	5	4
4	8	9	3	5	2	6	1	7
5	2	7	1	4	6	8	3	9
8	4	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
6	1	2	7	3	4	9	8	5
9	7	5	2	1	8	4	6	3
7	3	6	4	8	1	5	9	2
1	5	4	6	2	9	3	7	8
2	9	8	5	7	3	1	4	6

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	O	B	A	B	A	N	A	L	A	C	H	E
O	V	A	L	O	L	I	V	E	C	H	E	X
O	E	N	O	N	O	N	E	T	T	E	R	P
P	R	E	H	I	S	T	O	R	I	C	C	O
	A	N	A			T	A	N	K			
D	O	S	D	I	S	C	O	G	R	A	P	H
E	B	O	N			T	A	R	O	F	O	I
C	A	M	O			O	R	A		T	I	N
A	M	E	R			M	U	L	L		P	A
F	A	R	M			T	O	T	A	B	L	E
	S	A	I			D		A	N	T		
S	K	A				S	E	C	R	E	T	S
C	O	U	P			S	H	I	R	K		S
A	B	L	E			T	A	S	T	E		K
B	E	T	A			Y	I	K	E	S		S





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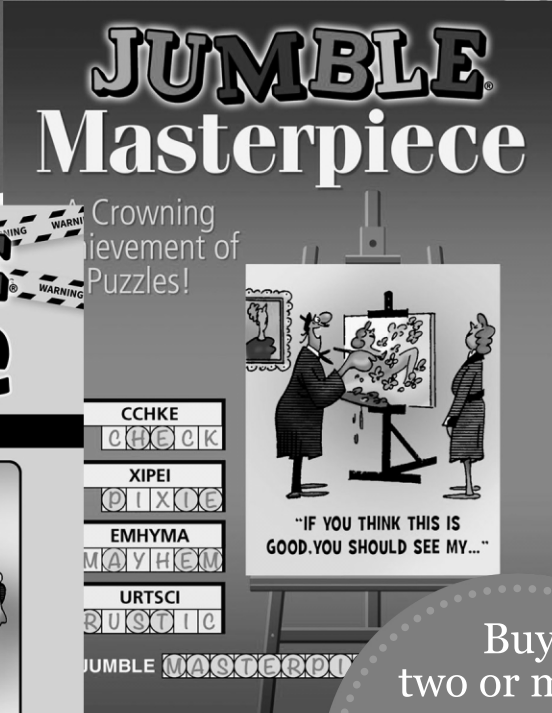
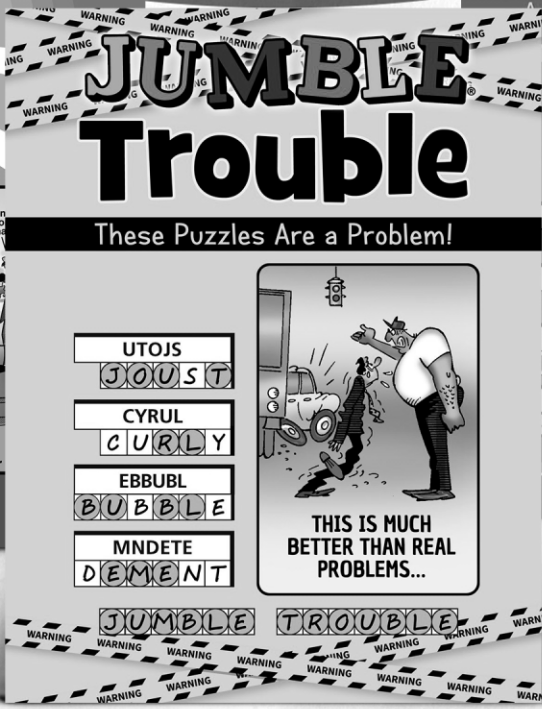
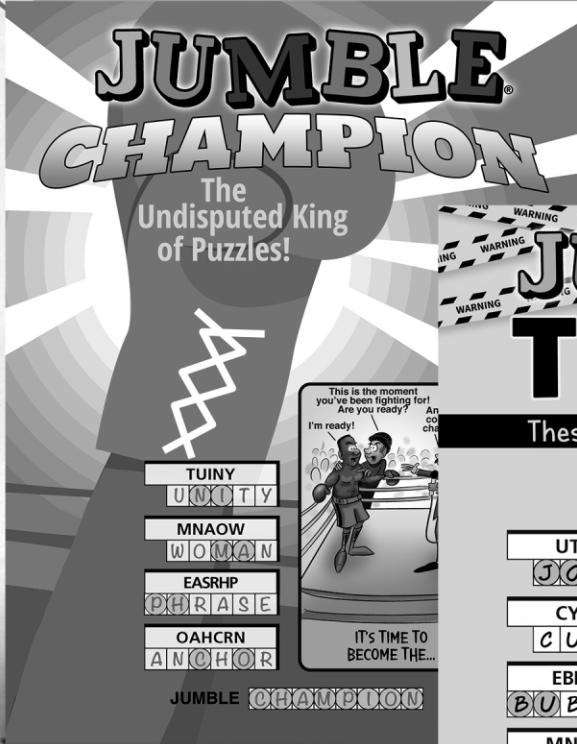
I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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SPORTS

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MLB

Labor talks intensify with Opening Day in jeopardy

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Locked-out players and Major League Baseball engaged in a series of intense meetings that stretched into Monday night as they attempted to forge the path to a labor deal before management's deadline for salvaging Opening Day on March 31.

The sides met several times throughout the day and made

progress toward an agreement, but they remained very far apart on key issues. Commissioner Rob Manfred met with the union twice — once more than he had previously since the lockout started Dec. 2. After months of talks in fits and starts, the sides shifted into possible deal-making mode.

"We're working at it," Manfred said around 6 p.m. after his second session of the day with the union.

Deputy commissioner Dan

Halem and executive vice president Morgan Sword then held an hourlong meeting with the union. They emerged shortly after 8 p.m. for a caucus, and Halem returned to the union side around 8:45 p.m. for the sixth session of the day.

The league and union were negotiating for the eighth straight day after meeting just six times on core economics during the first 2 ½ months of the lockout. They have laid out their positions to each

other in detail, both agreeing to funnel more money to young players but entering the day far apart on many economic terms.

Manfred said a deal had to be reached by Monday to maintain four weeks of spring training ahead of a 162-game schedule. MLB has not fixed an exact time to the deadline, which led to the possibility of bargaining sessions stretching into the wee hours if both sides sense an agreement within reach.

The union has not said whether it agrees with the deadline, and baseball has shortened spring training to as few as three weeks in the past. On the 89th day of baseball's second-longest work stoppage, emotions became more heated as the sides pressed for each other's bottom line. Philadelphia star Bryce Harper posted a photo on Instagram altered to show

Turn to MLB, Page 2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL NCAA TOURNAMENT



Fans watch from the stands during the NCAA Tournament championship game between Stanford and Arizona in San Antonio on April 4, 2021. A year after the NCAA got called out for gender inequities between its men's and women's basketball tournaments, the organization has made changes to make them more equitable. **ERIC GAY/AP**

A NEW DANCE?

NCAA makes big changes for women's tournament — 68 teams and using 'March Madness' — a year after scathing report

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press

Nearly a year ago, Oregon forward Sedona Prince took to Twitter to expose some of the more glaring inequities between the men's and women's NCAA Tournaments — an unwelcome viral moment for the organization and one that it is still responding to.

The NCAA has made major changes to its women's basketball tournament. Many of the changes have been relatively easy to do, such as expanding the tournament to 68 teams and using the phrase "March Madness" — once limited to the men's tourney — in branding.

"This year there will be numerous and notable enhancements to the championship," said Lynn Holzman, the NCAA vice president of women's basketball. "What those have translated to is an enhanced women's basketball student-athlete experience and fan experience."

Prince was happy to hear it.

"Making those changes is incredible, and I hope it continues to be that way, and not just from a massive scandal and a player exposing them on a national stage," she said. "Things shouldn't be fixed that way."

There is still a lot of work to do, such as TV rights and revenue disbursement, just two of the issues outlined in a blistering report released last summer that looked into the inequities. The differences between the two tournaments were stark.

Inside

Final women's tournament reveal. **Page 4**

Turn to Tournament, Page 4

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

The bench duo of Hawkins, Polley starting to heat up at right moment

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

As the madness of March approaches, Tyler Polley and Jordan Hawkins' recent play has unlocked a new ceiling for the UConn men's basketball team.

The bench pair helped lead the Huskies to a 86-77 victory over Georgetown on Sunday at Capital One Arena. Polley and Hawkins had 11 points each and accounted

Up next



UConn at Creighton
8:30 p.m. Wed., FS1

for 22 of 30 UConn bench points.

Both players are primarily known for their scoring, but they've had inconsistent seasons until recently. For Polley, his 3-point shooting percentage (

34.7%) is a career low and overall he has struggled to score. Hawkins, a freshman, has shown flashes of brilliance on the court and puts together some nice games, but he's still finding his way.

In the last three games, both have found their groove on both ends of the court. Polley is averaging 12 points per game in that span while shooting 55.5%. Hawkins

Turn to Duo, Page 4



UConn's Jordan Hawkins (24) and Tyrese Martin (4) react during Sunday's win against Georgetown in Washington. Hawkins scored 11 points off the bench. **NICK WASS/AP**

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Consistent contributor

Senior Nelson-Ododa indispensable this up-and-down-season

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

In a season of uncertainty and upheaval, one of the constants for the UConn women's basketball team is senior forward Olivia Nelson-Ododa.

"Just trying to be consistent for my team," Nelson-Ododa said.

She scored in double figures nine times and rebounded in double figures four times, only once failing to grab at least five rebounds in a game. She's averaging 10.0 points, 7.6 rebounds and 4.0 assists and has a team-leading 46 blocks in 27 games. Whatever the No. 7 Huskies (22-5, 16-1 Big East) needed to keep things together through their injuries, "ONO" stuffed the stat sheet with it when she was healthy.

"Everyone here is really versatile," UConn redshirt senior Evina Westbrook said. "Liv especially, she's like a guard-forward-post-point guard."

A 6-foot-5 senior from Winder, Georgia, Nelson-Ododa fought through a midseason groin injury to help steady the Huskies down the stretch. She shared Big East defensive player of the year honors in 2021 and was on the all-tournament team. She was a second-team selection in the American Athletic Conference in 2019-20, and the Big East last season. As she has grown and matured through the years, she has displayed a level of play the team has come to expect this season.

"The big thing you can say about Liv is she has been consistent," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "There's no 35-point, 25-rebound games from Liv, but there's also a ton of 15- or 16-point, eight- or nine-rebound, four- or five-assist games. So you come to expect certain things, and that's what she delivers. Her defense has improved. She's improved mentally over the years. One of her issues was how inconsistent she was. This year, we've benefited from how consistent she has been."

Nelson-Ododa missed three games with a groin injury, the first of which was the loss to Villanova on Feb. 9, a game in which her absence was glaring. Prior to that, she helped hold things together while

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next

Saturday: Big East quarterfinals vs. TBA at Mohegan Sun, noon, FS1

Did you know?

There are an estimated 156,000 preventable injury-related deaths in homes or about 78% of all preventable injury-related deaths per year.

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SPORTS

UP NEXT

UConn MBB: at Creighton, Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; DePaul (Gampel), Saturday, 5 p.m.; Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 10, time TBD
UConn WBB: Big East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, Saturday, noon; Big East Semifinal vs. TBD (if necessary), Sunday, 3 p.m.; Big East Final vs. TBD, Monday, 8 p.m.
Celtics: Hawks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Grizzlies, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Nets, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Knicks: at 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Suns, Friday, 10 p.m.; at Clippers, Sunday, 10 p.m.
Nets: at Raptors, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.; Heat, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Celtics, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn hockey: Vermont, Friday, 7 p.m.; Vermont, Saturday, 3 p.m.; Hockey East Quarterfinal vs. TBD, March 12, time TBA
Bruins: at Ducks, Tuesday, 10 p.m.; at Knights, Thursday, 9 p.m.; at Blue Jackets, Saturday, 7 p.m.
Rangers: Blues, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Devils, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Jets, Sunday, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: Belleville, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Hershey, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Bridgeport, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

6:30 p.m.: Tennessee at Georgia. (Live) SEC
6:30 p.m.: Dayton at Richmond. (Live) CBSSN
6:30 p.m.: Providence at Villanova. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Ole Miss at Kentucky. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: West Virginia at Oklahoma. (Live) ESPN2
7 p.m.: Missouri at South Carolina. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: Hawks at Celtics. (Live) TNT
7:30 p.m.: Nets at Raptors. (Live) YES
8 p.m.: Duke at Pittsburgh. (Live) ACC
8:30 p.m.: Florida at Vanderbilt. (Live) SEC
8:30 p.m.: St. Bonaventure at VCU. (Live) CBSSN
8:30 p.m.: Michigan State at Michigan. (Live) FS1
9 p.m.: Purdue at Wisconsin. (Live) ESPN
9 p.m.: Louisville at Virginia Tech. (Live) ESPN2
9 p.m.: Cincinnati at Houston. (Live) ESPNU
10 p.m.: Mavericks at Lakers. (Live) TNT
11 p.m.: Arizona at USC. (Live) ESPN ESPN2
GOLF
2:30 p.m.: Women's Darius Rucker Intercollegiate, Second Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
1 p.m.: Champions League Final Rsgle BK vs Tappara. (Live) NHL
10 p.m.: Bruins at Ducks. (Live) NESN
SOCCER
2:30 p.m.: Deutsche Pokal 1. FC Union Berlin vs FC St. Pauli. (Live) ESPNU
2:50 p.m.: Women's CONCACAF U-20 Championship El Salvador vs Saint Kitts and Nevis. (Live) FSP
3 p.m.: Italian Super Cup AC Milan at Internazionale Milan. (Live) CBSSN
5:50 p.m.: Women's CONCACAF U-20 Championship Canada vs Trinidad and Tobago. (Live) FSP

MLB

from Page 1

him in a Japanese baseball uniform with the words: “Yomiuri Giants you up? Got some time to kill.”

Yankees pitcher Jameson Taillon, who attended negotiations last week, tweeted: “Players are used to their ‘threats.’ Owners actions have made it clear all along that they have a set # of games where they still make profits/get TV money. They don’t want to play. It’s sad that these are the guys who drive the direction and ‘future’ of our amazing sport.” The sides arrived at 10 a.m., three hours earlier than previous days, at Roger Dean Stadium, the vacant spring training home of the Marlins and Cardinals.

Mets pitcher Max Scherzer and free agent reliever Andrew Miller were the only players on hand. Halem, Sword and Colorado

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL WEEK 11

Clingan reaches 2,000-point milestone

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Bristol Central’s Donovan Clingan hit another milestone Feb. 21 against crosstown rival Bristol Eastern, scoring his 2,000th career point on the first basket of the second half in the 76-50 victory.

Clingan, who’s headed to UConn next year, had 31 points in the game. He already has the school and town scoring records.

Imagine, his coach Tim Barrette said, if COVID-19 hadn’t wiped out the state tournament Clingan’s sophomore year and maybe a dozen games last season.

“When somebody loses as many games as he’s lost, with COVID, that’s quite an accomplishment when you think about it that way,” Barrette said. “You take 15-20 games out of a kid’s career and to still get to 2,000 is a remarkable accomplishment.”

Bristol Central (22-0) is set to face Windsor (18-3) Tuesday night in the CCC tournament semifinals at Enfield High. The Rams beat Windsor 83-67 on Feb. 10, and Clingan had a school-record 51 points.

“I think [Tuesday] is going to be an absolute dogfight with Windsor,” Barrette said. “We beat them the last two times, and they are definitely

going to be out for revenge. I’m expecting the best Windsor team to show up, which means we have to show up and play much better than we did on Saturday [in the quarterfinals]. We got off to a very sluggish start, and we can’t afford that [Tuesday] night.”

Players of the week

Brody Belanger, Windham Tech: Belanger scored 24 points in a 91-76 win over Cheney Tech Tuesday.

Tyler Betsey, Windsor: Betsey scored 22 points in a 91-64 win over RHAM in the CCC tournament quarterfinals Saturday and 16 points in a 70-54 victory over Manchester in the first round Thursday.

Troy Butler, Manchester: Butler had 35 points in a 73-63 win over East Hartford Tuesday.

Matt Curtis, Northwest Catholic: Curtis had 26 points in an 88-65 victory over Newington Thursday.

Riley Fox, Conard: Fox had 41 points and 11 rebounds in a win over Hall, 27 points and 10 rebounds in a 71-59 win over East Hartford in the first round of the CCC tournament and 18 points and nine rebounds in a 74-70 win in the CCC quarterfinals against Bloomfield.

Jalen Hamblin, Conard: Hamblin had three double-doubles (14

points, 10 rebounds vs. Hall, 23 points, 17 rebounds vs. East Hartford and 21 points, 17 rebounds against Bloomfield).

Teams of the week

Conard: Led by Fox and Hamblin, Conard went 3-0 last week and has won 10 in a row heading into the CCC tournament semifinals.

Hand: The Tigers beat Sheehan 64-43 and Amity 79-65 in the first two rounds of the SCC tournament and heading into Monday night’s semifinal game against Fairfield Prep, had won eight straight.

Windsor: Since losing to Bristol Central 83-67 Feb. 10, Windsor has won six straight, including the first two games of the CCC tournament, and the Warriors will get a chance to go up against Bristol Central again Tuesday in the semifinals.

Storylines of the week

■ Since its first loss of the season, to Morgan on Feb. 18, Cromwell has won three straight games. The Panthers, who play East Hampton in the Shoreline Conference tournament semifinals Tuesday, last won a Shoreline tournament title in 2019. Morgan, the second seed, is the defending Shoreline Conference

champion.

■ Northwest Catholic has won 20 games in a row, including its first two in the CCC tournament. The Lions beat Conard during the regular season, and if they do so again in the semifinals, will face the Bristol Central-Windsor winner in the championship game. Northwest Catholic beat Windsor 81-80 Jan. 6 but has not faced Bristol Central this season.

Games to watch

CCC tournament semifinals, Tuesday: Bristol Central-Windsor Part II and Conard (20-2) vs. Northwest Catholic (21-1) Part II at Enfield High. Bristol Central (22-0) beat Windsor on Feb. 10 and Northwest Catholic beat Conard 52-43 on Feb. 1. The final is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Enfield.

Shoreline tournament semifinals, Tuesday: Top-seeded Cromwell will host No. 5 East Hampton, and No. 2 seed Morgan will host No. 6 Portland. The Shoreline final will be Friday at the higher seeded school.

NCCC tournament semifinals, Wednesday: The semifinals will take place Wednesday and the final Friday, both at the higher seeds.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL WEEK 11

Granby tops Canton to end 9-year drought

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

It had been nine years since Granby beat Canton in girls basketball, and the Bears had lost 14 straight games to Canton over that time period. But this season was different.

Canton, usually the top team in the NCCC, was down a little and Granby took advantage. The Bears beat Canton 53-36 on Jan. 22 and then again for their first NCCC tournament championship on Friday, 52-44.

“It’s something for the kids to be proud of,” Granby coach Mike D’Angelo said. “It’s been a great season so far.”

Granby (19-4) starts three seniors and has four senior captains who D’Angelo said are the key to the team’s success. With the team’s scoring pretty balanced, seniors Savannah Rijkse was named the NCCC tournament’s most valuable player after scoring 17 points in the final.

Granby is the ninth seed in Class M and will host Capital Prep on Tuesday in the first round of the CIAC tournament.

Players of the week

Abby Bradbury, Valley Regional: Bradbury had 19 points in a 50-40 victory over Cromwell in the Shoreline Conference tournament semifinal last Tuesday.

Jenna Cuniowski, Canton: Cuniowski had 20 of Canton’s 44 points in the loss to Granby in the NCCC tournament championship game on Thursday and 22 points in a 45-40 semifinal win over Somers last Tuesday.

Lilly Ferguson, Newington: Ferguson had 19 points in a 56-37 win over Southington in the CCC tournament semifinals last Tuesday.

Kayla Henry, East Hartford: Henry grabbed a perfect pass from teammate Shailyn Pinkney and launched a 3-pointer that went in as the buzzer sounded to boost East Hartford to its first CCC championship, 31-30 over Newington on Thursday.

Fem Jansen, Granby: Jansen had 16 points as Granby won its first NCCC tournament championship over Canton 52-44 on Thursday.

Valerie Luizzi, Bacon Academy:



East Hartford’s Shailyn Pinkney goes to the basket, defended by Newington’s Kendall Miller (32), during the CCC tournament final, which East Hartford won 31-30 on Thursday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Luizzi had 25 points, four assists and three steals in a 66-55 loss to New London in the ECC Division 1 championship game at Mohegan Sun last Tuesday.

Ashanti McLean, Aerospace: McLean hit the game-winner at the buzzer and had 21 points in Aerospace’s 44-42 win in the CRAL tournament semifinals last Tuesday. She had 24 points in a 54-42 loss to Parish Hill in the championship game on Thursday.

Savannah Rijkse, Granby: Rijkse had 17 points, including six free throws in the last 20 seconds, to lead the Bears past Canton in the NCCC tournament championship game on Thursday.

Shailyn Pinkney, East Hartford: Pinkney’s pass to Henry for the game-winner was on point in the CCC championship game win over Newington. She led all scorers with 17 points in the championship game and had 17 points in a 37-31 win over Windsor in the CCC semifinals last Tuesday.

Liana Salamone, East Hampton: Salamone had 26 points, including 12 free throws, in a 53-37 win over North Branford in the Shoreline Conference tournament semifinals Wednesday.

Storylines of the week

■ East Hartford and Newington played through three sluggish quarters in the CCC championship, and it came down to the last 3.7 seconds when Ferguson hit two free throws to put Newington up two points. East Hartford got the last shot from Henry, and the Hornets won their first conference title. East Hartford beat Newington twice this season, the Nor’easters’ only two losses.

■ Daniel Hand was the only team able to beat Sacred Heart Academy this season (39-36 on Jan. 10), but the Tigers couldn’t do it twice and fell 55-37 in the SCC championship game on Wednesday. Sacred Heart (23-1) starts the Class MM tournament Thursday as the top

seed. Hand is the No. 3 seed.

■ Bacon Academy lost to New London in the ECC tournament final at Mohegan Sun Arena, 66-55. Bacon is the second seed in Class M and will open tournament play Friday against the winner of Griswold and Platt Tech.

■ If Glastonbury gets past New Britain in the first round of the Class LL tournament, the Guardians would play East Hartford. Glastonbury handed East Hartford one of its two regular-season losses, 37-32 on Feb. 9.

Teams of the week

Aerospace: Aerospace played a number of out-of-conference games and had a 12-8 regular-season record but finished as the CRAL tournament runner-up to Parish Hill. Aerospace is the 13th seed in the Class S tournament and will play Ellis Tech on Tuesday in the first round.

East Hampton: The Bellringers won the Shoreline Conference tournament with a 44-28 victory over Valley Regional on Saturday in the third matchup between the two teams this season. East Hampton had lost to Valley 41-28 on Dec. 21 but beat Valley by the same score on Feb. 3.

Windsor: The Warriors knocked off top-seeded Enfield and then hung around with eventual CCC tournament champion East Hartford before losing 37-31 in the semifinals.

Games to watch this week

South Windsor at Windsor, Tuesday: Windsor made a nice run in the CCC tournament but the Warriors lost to South Windsor 52-49 in overtime on Feb. 9. The two CCC teams face each other again in the first round of the Class L tournament.

Canton at Immaculate, Tuesday: Canton lost to Granby in the NCCC tournament final after a run to the championship game. The Warriors will have a long road trip to Danbury for a first-round Class S game.

Westbrook at Windsor Locks, Tuesday: No. 22 Westbrook travels to No. 11 Windsor Locks in a first-round Class S tournament game.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.



Baseball fan Noah McMurray of Boynton Beach, Fla., stands outside Roger Dean Stadium on Monday as Major League Baseball negotiations continued in an attempt to reach an agreement to salvage a March 31 start to the regular season. LYNN SLADKY/AP

this year, rising to \$273 million by the final season. The union wants to expand arbitration to include the top 35% by service time of play-

ers with at least two seasons of major league service and less than three, up from the 22% cutoff in place since 2013. The union proposed

the pre-arbitration pool have \$115 million distributed to 150 players, and management wants \$20 million to be split among 30.

Rockies CEO Dick Monfort also took part in the talks.

Players would lose \$20.5 million in salary for each day of the season that is canceled, according to a study by The Associated Press, and the 30 teams would lose large sums that are harder to pin down.

Spring training games were to have begun Saturday, but baseball’s ninth work stoppage — and first since 1995 — already has led to exhibitions being canceled through next Monday. The most contentious proposals in dispute involve luxury tax thresholds and rates, the size of a new bonus pool for pre-arbitration players, minimum salaries, salary arbitration eligibility and the union’s desire to change the club revenue-sharing formula.

In addition, MLB has tied the elimination of direct free-agent compensation to players agreeing to higher luxury tax rates and still

wants to expand the play-offs to 14 teams rather than the union’s preference for 12. MLB also has kept its proposal for an international amateur draft on the table.

Not since Aug 30, 2002, has MLB come this close to losing regular-season games to labor strife. The union was set to strike at 3:20 p.m. that day, but roughly 25 consecutive hours of meetings and caucuses culminated in an agreement at 11:45 a.m.

Bargaining has not had that type of frequency this year, but it has gained momentum since talks shifted from New York to Florida last week.

MLB has offered to raise the luxury tax threshold from \$210 million last season to \$214 million this year, increasing it to \$220 million by 2026. Teams also want higher tax rates, which the union says would tend to act like a salary cap.

Players have asked for a \$245 million threshold

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NBA

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ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	37	23	.617	—
Boston	36	27	.571	1 ½
Toronto	32	27	.542	4 ½
Brooklyn	32	29	.525	5 ½
New York	25	36	.410	12 ½

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	40	21	.656	—
Charlotte	30	32	.484	10 ½
Atlanta	29	31	.483	10 ½
Washington	27	33	.450	12 ½
Orlando	15	47	.242	25 ½

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	39	22	.639	—
Cleveland	36	24	.600	2 ½
Milwaukee	36	25	.590	3
Indiana	21	42	.333	19
Detroit	15	46	.246	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	42	20	.677	—
Dallas	36	25	.590	5 ½
New Orleans	25	36	.410	16 ½
San Antonio	24	37	.393	17 ½
Houston	15	45	.250	26

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	38	22	.633	—
Denver	36	25	.590	2 ½
Minnesota	32	29	.525	6 ½
Portland	25	36	.410	13 ½
Oklahoma City	19	41	.317	19

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	49	12	.803	—
Golden State	43	18	.705	6
L.A. Clippers	32	31	.508	18
L.A. Lakers	27	33	.450	21 ½
Sacramento	22	40	.355	27 ½

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 119, Indiana 103
Minnesota at Cleveland, late
Chicago at Miami, late
Toronto at Brooklyn, late
Charlotte at Milwaukee, late
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, late
San Antonio at Memphis, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Detroit at Washington, 7p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Brooklyn at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 8p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Philadelphia 125, New York 109
Utah 118, Phoenix 114
Indiana 128, Boston 107
L.A. Clippers 99, Houston 98
Detroit 127, Charlotte 126, OT
Dallas 107, Golden State 101
Denver 124, Portland 92
New Orleans 123, L.A. Lakers 95

SOCCER

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Columbus	1	0	0	3	4	0
D.C. United	1	0	0	3	3	0
New York	1	0	0	3	3	1
Atlanta	1	0	0	3	3	1
Orlando City	1	0	0	3	2	0
New England	0	0	1	1	2	2
Toronto FC	0	0	1	1	1	1
Philadelphia	0	0	1	1	1	1
Chicago	0	0	1	1	0	0
Inter Miami CF	0	0	1	1	0	0
New York City FC	0	1	0	0	0	1
CF Montréal	0	1	0	0	0	2
CHARLOTTE FC	0	1	0	0	0	3
Cincinnati	0	1	0	0	0	5

Austin FC	1	0	0	3	5	0
Los Angeles FC	1	0	0	3	3	0
LA Galaxy	1	0	0	3	1	0
Nashville	1	0	0	3	1	0
Portland	0	0	1	1	2	2
FC Dallas	0	0	1	1	1	1
Minnesota United	0	0	1	1	1	1
Houston	0	0	1	1	0	0
Real Salt Lake	0	0	1	1	0	0
Seattle	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sporting KC	0	1	0	0	1	3
San Jose	0	1	0	0	1	3
Colorado	0	1	0	0	0	3
Vancouver	0	1	0	0	0	4

Three points for win, one point for tie.

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

FC Dallas at New England, 1:30 p.m.
New York at Toronto FC, 2 p.m.
Houston at Sporting KC, 3:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at CF Montréal, 4 p.m.
Columbus at San Jose, 5:30 p.m.
D.C. United at Cincinnati, 6 p.m.
Orlando City at Chicago, 6 p.m.
Nashville at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
Atlanta at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Seattle at Real Salt Lake, 6 p.m.
New York City FC at Vancouver, 6 p.m.
L.A. Galaxy at Charlotte FC, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando City 2, CF Montréal 0
Atlanta 3, Sporting Kansas City 1
LA Galaxy 1, New York City FC 0
Real Salt Lake 0, Houston 0
Nashville 1, Seattle 0

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

TUESDAY'S MATCH
Burnley vs. Leicester, 2:45 p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Leicester vs. Leeds, 7:30 a.m.
Aston Villa vs. Southampton, 10 a.m.
Burnley vs. Chelsea, 10 a.m.
Newcastle vs. Brighton, 10 a.m.
Norwich vs. Brentford, 10 a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Crystal Palace, 10 a.m.
Liverpool vs. West Ham, 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES

Watford vs. Arsenal, 9 a.m.
Man City vs. Man United, 11:30 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 7
Tottenham vs. Everton, 3 p.m.

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FAVORITE	LINE	TUESDAY UNDERDOG
at Richmond	1 ½	Dayton
at Tennessee	16	Georgia
at Villanova	9	Providence
Miami (Ohio)	2 ½	at Cent. Michigan
Ohio	7 ½	at Bowling Green
at Oklahoma	6	West Virginia
at Buffalo	2 ½	Toledo
Akron	3 ½	at Ball State
at S. Carolina	6 ½	Missouri
at Kentucky	16 ½	Mississippi
at E. Michigan	5	W. Michigan
St. Peter's	3	at Manhattan
at Ohio State	16	Nebraska
Kansas	3 ½	at TCU
Kent State	8 ½	at No. Illinois
Duke	14	at Pittsburgh
at VCU	3 ½	St. Bonaventure
Florida	1	at Vanderbilt
at Michigan	5	Michigan State
at Houston	15	Cincinnati
at Air Force	5 ½	San Jose State
Purdue	2 ½	at Wisconsin
at Boise State	10 ½	Nevada
Virginia Tech	10 ½	Louisville
Montana St.	4	Southern Utah
at UCSB	15	CS Northridge
Arizona	4	USC

NBA FAVORITE

LINE	O/U	TUESDAY UNDERDOG
at Washington	Off (Off)	Detroit
at Toronto	Off (Off)	Brooklyn
at Boston	Off (Off)	Atlanta
at Minnesota	Off (Off)	Golden State
LA Clippers	6 ½ (230%)	at Houston
Dallas	4 (216%)	at LA Lakers

NHL FAVORITE

LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at Columbus	-154	New Jersey
at Tampa Bay	-345	Ottawa
Edmonton	-166	at Philadelphia
Carolina	-240	at Detroit
at Winnipeg	-245	Montreal
at Minnesota	-120	Calgary
at Colorado	-285	N.Y. Islanders
Boston	-182	at Anaheim
at Vegas	-230	San Jose

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Florida	53	35	13	5	75	218	161		
Tampa Bay	51	34	11	6	74	177	144		
Toronto	52	34	14	4	72	192	149		
Boston	51	31	17	4	66	151	142		
Detroit	53	23	24	6	52	156	191		
Ottawa	51	19	27	5	43	135	161		
Buffalo	54	16	30	8	40	143	195		
Montreal	53	13	33	7	33	123	198		

METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Carolina	52	37	11	4	78	182	122
Pittsburgh	55	33	14	8	74	178	148
N.Y. Rangers	53	33	15	5	71	157	134
Washington	54	28	17	9	65	173	151
Columbus	53	27	25	1	55	175	193
N.Y. Islanders	49	20	21	8	48	125	137
Philadelphia	52	16	26	10	42	131	181
New Jersey	52	18	29	5	41	157	191

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Colorado	53	39	10	4	82	213	150
St. Louis	52	32	14	6	70	188	141
Minnesota	50	31	16	3	65	190	157
Nashville	53	30	19	4	64	163	151
Dallas	52	29	20	3	61	151	151
Winnipeg	53	23	21	9	55	155	162
Chicago	54	19	27	8	46	134	185
Arizona	53	14	35	4	32	122	195

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Calgary	51	31	14	6	68	177	124
Los Angeles	53	29	17	7	65	159	146
Vegas	53	29	20	4	62	172	156
Edmonton	53	29	21	3	61	176	171
Anaheim	55	25	21	9	59	161	169
Vancouver	54	26	22	6	58	152	151
San Jose	53	24	23	6	54	142	165
Seattle	55	16	34	5	37	140	196

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto at Washington, late
Vancouver at New Jersey, late
Boston at Los Angeles, late

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Edmonton at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
New Jersey at Columbus, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Carolina at Detroit, 7:30p.m.
Calgary at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Montreal at Winnipeg, 8p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 9p.m.
Boston at Anaheim, 10p.m.
San Jose at Vegas, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Buffalo at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers, 7:30p.m.
Los Angeles at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Nashville at Seattle, 10p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Carolina at Washington, 7p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Vancouver at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 8:30p.m.
Boston at Vegas, 9p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 9p.m.
Montreal at Calgary, 9p.m.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS

Carolina 2, Edmonton 1
Dallas 4, Buffalo 2
St. Louis 4, Chicago 0
Winnipeg 5, Arizona 3
Pittsburgh 3, Columbus 2
Vancouver 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, Anaheim 0
San Jose 3, Seattle 1

TENNIS

WTA LYON OPEN

At Palais des Sports Gerland, Lyon, France, Hardcourt outdoor
WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 32
Cristina Bucsa d. #4 Alize Cornet, 1-6, 6-4, 6-1.
#5 Jasmine Paolini d. Irina Bara, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.
Katie Boulter d. #6 Ana Konjuh, 5-7, 6-0, 6-3.
Varvara Gracheva d. Kristina Kucova, 7-6(0), 7-6(2).
Anna Bondar d. Yuriko Lily Miyazaki, 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-5.
Stefanie Voegele d. Elsa Jacquemot, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

WTA ABIERTO GNP SEGUROS

In Monterrey Mexico; outdoors-hard
WOMEN'S SINGLES, FIRST ROUND
#2 Leylah Fernandez vs. Anna Karolina Schmiedlova, late
#4 Sara Sorribes Tormo d. Kamilla Rakchimova, 7-5, 6-7(2), 6-1.
#5 Camila Osorio d. Magdalena Frech, 6-3, 7-6(6).
Heather Watson d. Jule Niemeier, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(4).
Emma Navarro vs. Marcela Acarias, late
Viktoryia Tomova d. Diane Parry, 6-4, 6-0.
Harmony Tan vs. Renata Zarazua, late
Beatriz Haddad Maia d. Panna Udvardy, 1-6, 6-1, 7-6(3).

WTA ABIERTO AKRON ZAPOCAN

At Panamerican Tennis Center, Guadalajara, Mexico, outdoors-hardcourt
WOMEN'S SINGLES, CHAMPIONSHIP
#6sIoane Stephens d. Marie Bouzkova, 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

ATP SINGLES RANKINGS

1. Daniil Medvedev, Russia	8,615
2. Novak Djokovic, Serbia	8,465
3. Alexander Zverev, Germany	7,515
4. Rafael Nadal, Spain	6,515
5. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Greece	6,445
6. Andrey Rublev, Russia	5,000
7. Matteo Berrettini, Italy	4,928
8. Casper Ruud, Norway	3,915
9. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada	3,883
10. Hubert Hurkacz, Poland	3,496
11. Jannik Sinner, Italy	3,495
12. Cameron Norrie, Britain	3,325
13. Denis Shapovalov, Canada	3,020
14. Diego Schwartzman, Argentina	2,865
15. Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain	2,480
16. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain	2,220
17. Reilly Opelka, USA	2,156
18. Nikoloz Basilashvili, Georgia	2,121
19. Carlos Alcaraz, Spain	2,061
20. Taylor Fritz, USA	2,010
21. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy	1,937
22. Aslan Karatsev, Russia	1,933
23. Marin Cilic, Croatia	1,801
24. Karen Khachanov, Russia	1,785
25. Cristian Garin, Chile	1,725
27. Roger Federer, Switzerland	1,665
28. Gael Monfils, France	1,633
29. Daniel Evans, Great Britain	1,542
30. Alex de Minaur, Australia	1,486
31. Frances Tiafoe, USA	1,467
32. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan	1,416
33. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain	1,394
34. Lloyd Harris, South Africa	1,393
35. Marton Fucsovics, Hungary	1,382

WTA SINGLES RANKINGS

1. Ashleigh Barty, Australia	7,980
2. Barbora Krejickova, Czech Rep	5,073
3. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus	4,853
4. Iga Swiatek, Poland	4,776
5. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia	4,721
6. Paula Badosa, Spain	4,510
7. Maria Sakkari, Greece	4,436
8. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Rep.	4,242
9. Garbine Muguruza, Spain	3,235
10. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia	3,065
11. Danielle Collins, USA	2,972
12. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia	2,880
13. Emma Raducanu, Great Britain	2,664
14. Ana. Pavlyuchenkova, Russia	2,473
15. Elina Svitolina, Ukraine	2,427
16. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus	2,272
17. Jessica Pegula, USA	2,234
18. Angelique Kerber, Germany	2,232
19. Coco Gauff, USA	2,231
20. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan	2,201
21. Leylah A. Fernandez, Canada	2,066
22. Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia	1,951
23. Elise Mertens, Belgium	1,886
24. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia	1,875
25. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland	1,871
26. Daria Kasatkina, Russia	1,835
27. Simona Halep, Romania	1,832
28. Madison Keys, USA	1,690
29. Camila Giorgi, Italy	1,663
30. Sorana Cirstea, Romania	1,676
31. Petra Kvitova, Czech Rep.	1,585

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: at Creighton,
8:30 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: Big East
quarterfinals, noon, FS1

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

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Olivia Nelson-Ododa has been a consistent, stabilizing force for the UConn women in 2021-22. **JESSICA HILL/AP**

UConn

from Page 1

Aubrey Griffin, Paige Bueckers, Azzi Fudd, Christyn Williams and Carolina Ducharme were out at various times with their injuries.

“One of the biggest changes is in my mentality,” Nelson-Ododa said. “This was an uncharacteristic season. You didn’t know what was going to happen next game, how many games away. Just being prepared for anything, adjusting to things on the fly, played into it.”

As the Huskies got healthy, players began to settle back into comfortable roles, and they quickly distanced themselves from those midseason struggles.

They finished the season with a seven-game winning streak, winning by an average of 39.2 points per game. That’s more like the UConn program Nelson-Ododa joined four years ago.

“We’ve had to get out of our comfort zone and figure out a lot of things,” Nelson-Ododa said. “Just focusing on the present.”

Nelson-Ododa, who will graduate with a degree in economics, was accompanied by her parents Sunday as she walked out for the Senior Day ceremony to accept her framed No. 20 jersey from Auriemma.

Then, she wiped away the tears and turned in a characteristic performance with 13 points, eight rebounds, three assists, two blocks and a steal as the

Huskies, who had struggled to beat Providence by eight points on Jan. 30, won the rematch 88-31 less than 48 hours after beating St. John’s 93-38. The No. 1-seeded Huskies begin play in the Big East Tournament quarterfinals at Mohegan Sun Saturday at noon.

“It was very important to make the change from the way we played them the last time and carrying on the momentum from St. John’s,” Nelson-Ododa said. “Just really put things into place for tournament time. It’s all about the little details for us, the small things, correcting those and making sure we’re getting things right.”

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Duo

from Page 1

has started to showcase an impressive defensive ability and get more comfortable with the game’s pace.

UConn is 5-0 when Polley and Hawkins score double-digits. The average margin of victory in those games is 13.2 points.

The Huskies’ identity is built around defense and physicality, but they become tough to beat when they get consistent bench scoring. UConn shoots 48.4% on 2s, which ranks No. 237 in Division I, according to KenPom. So, if they can’t get consistent 3-point shooting, the team can struggle to score.

Hawkins and Polley help solve UConn’s scoring woes. The Huskies have two games left in the regular season before the Big East Tournament (March 9-12) and the NCAA Tournament after that. So there’s no better time for bench players to start playing well.

UConn coach Dan Hurley says when the duo is clicking, UConn becomes a different team.

“It allows us to take to another level what we can accomplish with the team,” he said. “The one question mark about this team is the firepower from the perimeter. Do they have enough

firepower to beat the best teams? If we get that type of production from our bench, we know how we rebound and we know how we defend.”

Against Georgetown, Polley gave a big boost off the bench. He shot 3-for-7 and had impressive drives to the basket that led to free throws, and he went 4-for-4 from the line. His spacing is pivotal for this team that has been inconsistent offensively. It opens up the floor for other UConn players to operate in the paint.

The Huskies’ two most efficient five-man lineups are Polley replacing either Isaiah Whaley or Adama Sanogo and playing with the other starters. Per Evan-Miya, Polley coming in for Whaley has an adjusted team efficiency margin of 44.3. When he replaces Sanogo, it’s 41.3. These lineups are the No. 7 and No. 8 best five-man lineups in the Big East.

Adjusted team efficiency margin is calculated by taking the offensive efficiency minus the defensive efficiency, which determines how many points a team would outscore an average Division I program.

Hawkins has started to figure out the college game. Against Georgetown, he showcased an impressive array of offensive moves. He had at crafty Euro step

finish for a layup and even had a dunk over Georgetown’s Aminu Mohammed. Perhaps most important, Hawkins looked the most confident he has all season.

The most impressive leap for Hawkins has been on defense. He’s not making the mistakes he did earlier in this season, and it has paid off with an increase in minutes. Hawkins is rotating well on switches and has recently shown impressive lateral movement against some of the Big East’s best scorers, which has helped keep them in check.

Hurley has been impressed by Hawkins’ play. “Man, that guy. There’s not a lot of freshmen playing in college basketball in these types of games, especially in our league where it’s so physical,” he said. “His growth on the defensive end, his growth on the backboard and his growth on putting a body on somebody on the defensive glass ... That guy is going to be a huge star here. His freshman to sophomore year jump, this is going to become his show. Obviously, his sophomore year as we lose guys. Guy’s been making huge, huge strides.”

Hawkins has grown from the mentorship of coaches and older teammates.

“There’s been a lot of ups and downs,” he said. “I learn from my mistakes I make

every game. I learn from the coaches and older guys. Take everything in this year, doing everything I can to get better.”

R.J. Cole knows how important Hawkins and Polley are for UConn.

“(Hawkins has) really grown into his own, and I’m proud to see,” he said. “He’s been huge. He’s been doing very well for us right now. We need him off the bench. He’s one of our sparkplugs. When he’s playing well and Tyler is playing well, the game is going to go well for us.”

Huskies rise to No. 18 in poll

In the latest AP men’s basketball poll released Monday, the Huskies (21-7, 12-5 Big East) moved up three spots to No. 18. UConn went 2-0 in its previous week with wins against Villanova, 71-69, on Tuesday and Georgetown, 86-77, on Sunday.

The Big East has three teams in the rankings, with Providence at No. 8, Villanova at No. 11 and UConn.

UConn’s Cole made Big East Honor Roll. he averaged 15 points while shooting 54.5%.

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WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

UConn tabbed for Greensboro in final reveal

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The UConn women moved up in the latest NCAA Tournament bracket reveal, but not to the preferable position of playing the Sweet 16 and Elite 8 games in their home state.

The Huskies (22-5), on a seven-game winning streak, moved up from No. 11 to No. 9, and in the final bracket released before the official one on the selection show March 13, were assigned to the Greensboro, N.C., regional as the No. 3 seed.

To get out of that regional, as it is presently lined up, UConn likely would have to beat top-ranked South Carolina, the No. 1 seed in Greensboro. Michigan is No. 2 and Oklahoma No. 4. South Carolina defeated UConn 73-57 in the Battle 4 Atlantis tournament in the Bahamas in November.

The other No. 1 seeds are Stanford, the defending national champ, ticketed for Spokane, Wash., along with LSU, Texas and Indiana. Louisville is projected for Wichita, Kan., with Baylor, Arizona and Iowa, and NC State gets the No. 1 seed in Bridgeport, with Iowa State, Maryland and Tennessee.

The Huskies, who have won the Big East regular

season title, begin play in their conference tournament on Saturday at noon. Three impressive wins there, and a few upsets in conference tournaments around the country, could change UConn’s position in the final bracket. Now that they have reigning player of the year Paige Bueckers back from her knee injury, and nearly all their players healthy, they could prove to be underseeded.

Below are the regionals per the NCAA’s third and final bracket reveal, announced Monday on ESPN2:

- Greensboro**

 1. South Carolina (27-1)
 2. Michigan (22-5)
- 3. UConn (22-5)**

 4. Oklahoma (22-6)
- Spokane**

 1. Stanford (25-3)
 2. LSU (25-4)
 3. Texas (21-6)
 4. Indiana (19-7)
- Bridgeport**

 1. NC State (26-3)
 2. Iowa State (24-4)
 3. Maryland (21-7)
 4. Tennessee (22-7)
- Wichita**

 1. Louisville (25-3)
 2. Baylor (23-5)
 3. Arizona (20-6)
 4. Iowa (20-7)

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REGIONAL DIGEST

Scantlebury lifts CCSU past FDU in final seconds of NEC first-round game

Staff reports

Nigel Scantlebury capped the scoring with two free throws with 7 seconds left to give Central Connecticut its first lead of the game as the Blue Devils beat Fairleigh Dickinson 67-66 on Monday night in the first round of the Northeast Conference men’s basketball tournament in Hackensack, N.J.

Scantlebury had 19 points, five assists and six rebounds, and Trenton McLaughlin scored 14 points off the bench to lead the Blue Devils (8-23), who will face regular season champion Bryant in the quarterfinals Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Smithfield, R.I.

Brandon Rush led FDU with 15 points.

The Knights (4-22) led 34-27 at the half and

opened the second half with an 8-0 run to take a 15-point lead with 18:10 to play.

The Blue Devils cut the deficit to 44-37 with 15:16 to go and managed to keep it close the rest of the way and pull out the victory at the end.

Wesleyan men to host Division III tournament: Wesleyan will host first- and second-round games of the NCAA Division III men’s basketball tournament this weekend. The Cardinals (24-3) face Husson (15-9) in the first round Friday at 7:40 p.m. at Silloway Gymnasium in Middletown.

Wesleyan’s Jordan James was named the NESCAC player of the week Monday after leading the Cardinals to the conference tournament championship over the weekend.

Tournament

from Page 1

The NCAA said it has made a major effort to make the two tournaments more equitable, on and off the court. While the organization wouldn’t give an exact dollar amount, it did say it has spent millions more on the women’s tournament this year, with the Final Four set for Minneapolis. The men’s Final Four is in New Orleans.

“The zero-based budgeting exercise mentioned in the gender-equity report has been very detailed and time-consuming in a good way,” said Dan Gavitt, the NCAA senior vice president of basketball. “We’ve taken every budget line for men’s and women’s basketball championships and compared and contrasted them. Where there have been discrepancies, we’ve had significant discussions about the equity standpoint. In many cases, they’ve been adjusted to the tune of millions of dollars.”

Starting in the regional rounds, which are played at neutral sites after earlier rounds are hosted by

higher seeds, there will be “March Madness” logos on the courts instead of “Women’s Basketball.” The Final Four logos will be gender specific, too.

Other changes include:

— Gifts for each team will be the same. In previous years, while they were comparable in value, they were packaged and presented differently.

— Fan events at the Women’s Final Four have been expanded to be more similar to the men, including having an open practice the day before the championship game.

— Officials are being paid the

same at both tournaments.

The NCAA has plans for more changes next year. They hope to move the selection show back to its Monday night slot after shifting it to Sunday this year, where there is the potential for it to get dwarfed by the men’s show. The NCAA also hopes to have a neutral site for its opening round play-in games, similar to the men’s event in Dayton, Ohio.

Three things that were brought to light last year by Prince’s video and other social media posts were disparities in the lodging, food and weight rooms.

Organizers said most of those discrepancies occurred because of the set-up of the tournaments, with both hosting every team in single cities amid the pandemic instead of at sites across the nation. Still, the NCAA said it would ensure both tournaments will have equitable hotels and food this year.

Earlier this year, the NCAA announced it would not combine the two Final Fours, a recommendation from the Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP report. There are other possibilities, including potentially moving one of the two to a different weekend.



Safety Tip of the Day

Children are often the cause of fires in the home. Hide any lighters and matches out of reach and do not leave candles unattended around children.

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

NYC mayor: No exception for Irving



New York Mayor Eric Adams said Monday during an interview with CNBC that while he wants to see Kyrie Irving playing home games at Barclays Center but making an exception for the Nets points guard, who's unvaccinated, "would send the wrong message." Adams also said that he discussed the issue with Nets owner Joseph Tsai. "I want Kyrie on the court. I would do anything to get that ring. So badly, I want it. But there's so much at stake here," Adams, above, told CNBC. "I can't have my city closed down again. It would send the wrong message just to have an exception for one player when we're telling countless number of New York City employees, 'If you don't follow the rules, you won't be able to be employed.'" Adams' comments came a day after he announced that the city is looking at March 7 as the date to remove vaccination requirements for "indoor dining, fitness and entertainment venues." Adams said in his official statement, however, "All other vaccine mandates in New York City will remain in place at this time as they are, and have been, vital to protecting New Yorkers."

Jeter steps down as CEO of Marlins



Derek Jeter went into the offseason talking about the Marlins spending more money on contracts, figuring out ways to contend and continuing to build for the future. His focus — or the Marlins' focus — apparently has changed since. And now, the Hall of Fame player has left the organization, both as its CEO and a shareholder. Jeter announced a surprise departure from the Marlins on Monday after 4 ½ mostly unsuccessful years that didn't come remotely close to matching his success as a player for the Yankees. The Marlins had the fourth-worst record in baseball over Jeter's four seasons, making the playoffs only in 2020 when more than half of the MLB's teams qualified in the pandemic-affected year. The 47-year-old Jeter, who wasn't around the team on a day-to-day basis, previously said he had trouble remaining patient in his quest to make the Marlins a winner. In the short term, it would seem likely that more of the leadership role will fall on Kim Ng, whom Jeter brought to the Marlins in 2020 and made her the first female GM in a major professional sport in North America.

American Marsch takes over Leeds



American coach Jesse Marsch was hired by Leeds on Monday, with the club hoping a late-season change in manager can help to preserve its English Premier League status. Marsch replaced Marcelo Bielsa, who was fired Sunday following a dramatic downturn in results, and is back at work nearly three months after leaving German team Leipzig. He was previously at another Red Bull-backed club in Salzburg, which he led to back-to-back league-and-cup doubles in Austria. Marsch has signed a deal until June 2025, with the appointment pending international clearance. Leeds has dropped to within two points of the relegation zone after losing five of its last six league games. The 48-year-old Marsch follows fellow American Bob Bradley, who managed Swansea for 85 days in 2016, in coaching in the Premier League. There was also David Wagner, a German-born former U.S. international, who managed Huddersfield in England's top division from 2017-19. Marsch's first game in charge will be against Leicester on Saturday. —News services



Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, right, and his younger brother Wladimir, both former heavyweight boxing champs, monitor Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Sunday. They have pledged to take up arms in the battle against Russia's forces. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

WAR IN UKRAINE

In the fight of their lives

Boxing's Klitschko brothers, others join battle vs. Russia

By Tim Dahlberg
Associated Press

The two big men standing shoulder to shoulder in The Associated Press photo taken Sunday in the mayor's office in beleaguered Kyiv, Ukraine, were instantly recognizable to most boxing fans. Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko, the sons of a Soviet major general, are both former heavyweight champions and whenever one was in the ring, the other was always helping from the corner.

Now they're in a fight unlike any they ever imagined. The prize for this one isn't a gaudy championship belt but the survival of their country.

Vitali Klitschko is helping lead it as mayor of Kyiv. His younger brother plays the role of chief second.

They're a formidable pair, ready to do whatever it takes to defend their country against invading Russians. So far that hasn't included armed combat, but both have made it clear they will fight in the streets if it comes to that.

And, in a rich Ukrainian boxing community, they're not alone.

Vasiliy Lomachenko, a two-time Olympic gold medalist who some consider the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, hastily flew home from Greece to don combat fatigues as a member of a defense battalion. He was pictured on his official Facebook page over the weekend with an assault rifle slung over his shoulder near Odessa.

"The Belgorod-Dnestrovsky Territorial Defence Battalion has been formed and armed," the caption read. "In the territorial defence, boxer Vasiliy Lomachenko informed the mayor."

The current heavyweight champion is also in on the fight. Oleksandr Usyk returned home from London

when Russia invaded his country and, instead of preparing for a possible rematch against Anthony Joshua this spring, he's getting ready to fight against Russians in his native land.

Both are potentially losing million dollar paydays — in Usyk's case, the biggest purse of his career in a rematch with Joshua. But defending a belt and defending a country are two very different things.

On Sunday, Usyk posed not with gloves but an automatic rifle, flanked by three other armed men in the Kyiv Territorial Defense force.

They're all great fighters with proud legacies in the ring. When Wladimir Klitschko last fought in 2017, he and Joshua engaged in a thrilling knock-down bout before 90,000 at Wembley Stadium in London. Klitschko came off the canvas that night to deck the British champion before ultimately being stopped by the younger fighter.

And people in boxing still talk about Vitali Klitschko nearly getting the upper hand on Lennox Lewis in their heavyweight clash in Los Angeles in 2003 that ended only because the ring doctor stopped it when there was so much blood flowing down Klitschko's face he couldn't see.

None of the Ukrainian prizefighters ever backed down with gloves on. And they show no sign of backing down now, even with so much stacked up against them.

"Go back home," Vitali said when asked what he would tell Russian soldiers. "You have nothing to find here."

Usyk was even more blunt with his message.

"You are not at war with our government, our army," he said in a video posted on Twitter. "You are at war with the people. This is our land. We are at home."

Vitali Klitschko has been mayor of Kyiv since 2014, two years after he finally called it quits on a boxing career that earned him an Olympic gold

medal and a world title. His brother was arguably even more successful, holding pieces of the heavyweight title while going 11 years without a defeat.

They grew up fighting in the Soviet amateur system and, while their technical styles didn't endear them to boxing fans everywhere, they were extremely popular in Germany where they sold out arenas and stadiums for big fights.

They're also very smart. Both have advanced college degrees and speak four languages.

And both have friends in high places. "I am thinking of you, my friends," actor and politician Arnold Schwarzenegger tweeted, along with a picture of the brothers. "You were my heroes in the ring and you're my heroes now."

On the Boxrec.com website that is the closest thing boxing has to a record book, the home page Monday featured a picture of Vitali Klitschko holding an automatic rifle above the ratings.

"#1 — Vitali Klitschko," the caption read.

Sadly, this is war, not sport. There is no referee, very few rules and extremely deadly weapons.

Still, with Russian troops threatening the city Sunday, the brothers tried to stay upbeat inside the mayor's office even as Vitali Klitschko warned of a looming humanitarian crisis as the city's food and medicine supplies dry up.

"Right now, the most important question is to defend our country," he told the AP's Francesca Ebel and Efrem Lukatsky.

They will be there for that defense, like so many brave Ukrainians. The courage they're showing in the face of great force is the same courage they took into the ring, multiplied by a factor of 10.

Knowing them, it's no surprise they're willing to shed blood in defense of their country.

They're fighters, and they're in the fight of their lives.

WAR IN UKRAINE

FIFA, UEFA issue full ban to Russia

By Graham Dunbar | Associated Press

GENEVA — Russian teams were suspended Monday from all international soccer, including qualifying matches for the 2022 World Cup, as Moscow was pushed toward pariah status in sports for its invasion of Ukraine.

World soccer body FIFA and European authority UEFA banned Russian national and club teams from their competitions "until further notice." Russia's men's national team had been scheduled to play in World Cup qualifying play-offs in just three weeks' time.

"Football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine," FIFA and UEFA said in a joint statement.

The high-level punishment involving sports and politics — something not seen for decades — came after the International Olympic Committee pushed dozens of sports governing bodies to exclude Russian athletes and officials from international events.

The IOC said this action was needed to "protect the integrity of global sports competitions and for the safety of all the participants."

Denying Russia a place on the international stage could deliver a financial and psychological blow to the country, along with tarnishing its image as an elite sports power.

FIFA's move excluded Russia from the World Cup ahead of qualifying playoff on March 24. Poland already had refused to play its scheduled game against Russia.

UEFA also took the last remaining Russians in European club competitions this season, Spartak Moscow, out of the second-tier Europa League. Spartak's scheduled opponent on March 10 and 17, Leipzig of Germany, advances directly to the quarterfinals, UEFA said.

Russia now faces the kind of isolation suffered by Yugoslavian teams in 1992 after war broke out in the Balkans and by South African teams and athletes during the apartheid era of racial segregation and discrimination.

South Africa was suspended by FIFA in 1964 and expelled in 1976 over apartheid, then reinstated in 1992. Yugoslavia was dropped from the 1992 European Championship on short notice, a day after the U.N. approved sanctions against the war-torn country. It was barred from 1994 World Cup qualifying, before emerging as separate nations.

Decisions by FIFA and UEFA can typically be challenged on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne.

The Football Union of Russia said in a statement that it would "reserve the right to challenge" the decision.

"I feel sorry for my boys," said Russia coach Valery Karpin. "They were dreaming about playing at the World Cup. 'Now their hope is gone'."

Hockey followed suit, with international and NHL officials also punishing Russia.

The International Ice Hockey Federation banned Russia and close ally Belarus from competitions at all age levels and said it was moving the 2023 world junior championship out of Siberia.

The NHL also condemned the invasion, suspending all business dealings in Russia and ruling out the possibility of holding events there in the near future.

"We also remain concerned about the well-being of the players from Russia, who play in the NHL on behalf of their NHL clubs, and not on behalf of Russia," the league said. "We understand they and their families are being placed in an extremely difficult position."

It wasn't immediately clear how the decisions would affect Russian tennis players, including top-ranked Daniil Medvedev, in Grand Slam, ATP and WTA tournaments outside the authority of the International Tennis Federation.

The IOC also went directly after President Vladimir Putin, who turned the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics into a personal project. Putin's golden Olympic Order, which was awarded in 2001, has been withdrawn, the IOC said in a statement.

The Olympic body's call also applied to athletes and official from Belarus, which has abetted Russia's invasion by allowing its territory to be used to station troops and launch military attacks.

The IOC said it acted "with a heavy heart," but noted that the impact of war on Ukrainian sports and athletes who cannot now take part in competitions outweighed the potential damage done to athletes from Russia and Belarus.

It wasn't a total blanket ban by the IOC, which also didn't specifically suspend the national Olympic committees of Russia and Belarus.

Where exclusion was "not possible on short notice for organizational or legal reasons," then teams from Russia and Belarus should compete as neutral athletes with no national flag, anthem or symbols, including at the upcoming Winter Paralympics in Beijing, the IOC said.

Meanwhile, World Rugby suspended Russia and Belarus from all international events and cross-border club rugby, and suspended the Russian Rugby Union's membership.

Those moves effectively ended the bid by Russia's men's team to qualify for the 2023 Rugby World Cup in France and the women's sevens team's hopes of qualifying for the World Cup Sevens in South Africa this year.

AP writers Rob Harris in London and Stephen Whyno in Washington contributed.

WEATHER

TUESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness, more seasonable. South wind at 10 to 15 mph.

HIGH 40°

LOW 31°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Partly to mostly sunny and seasonable.

HIGH 43°

LOW 30°

THURSDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Becoming mostly sunny, breezy and chilly.

HIGH 37°

LOW 13°

FRIDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly sunny, breezy and chilly.

HIGH 35°

LOW 19°

SATURDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Mostly cloudy, a few snow and rain showers are possible.

HIGH 40°

LOW 30°

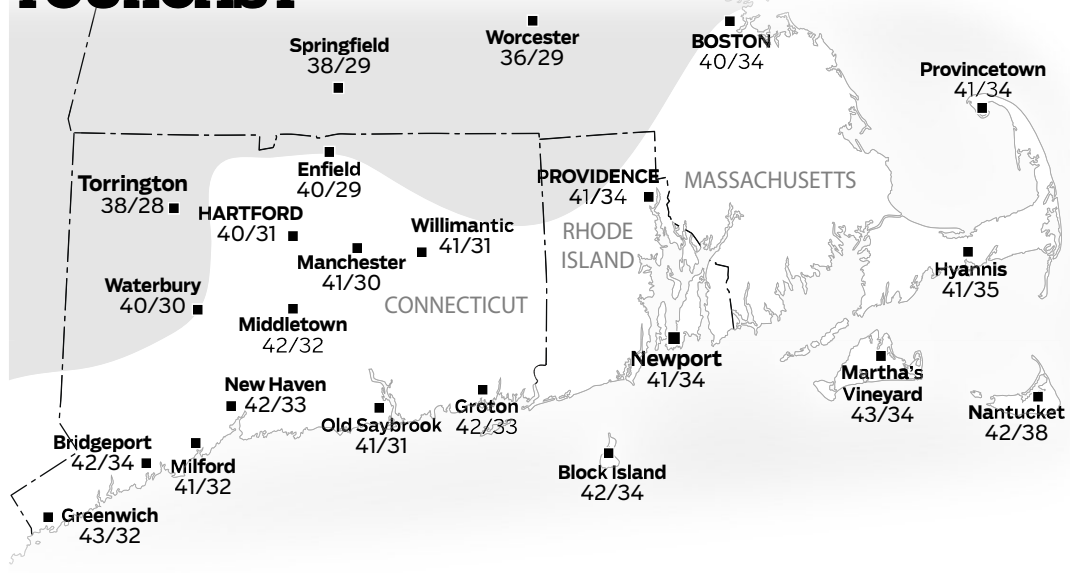
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YOURCAST

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



OUTLOOK

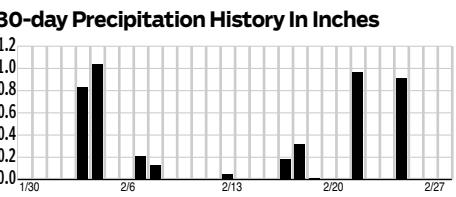
A warm front will be lifting through the Northeast on Tuesday causing considerable cloudiness and breezy conditions with a south wind at 10 to 15 mph and peak gusts up to 25 or 30 mph. Temperatures will be seasonable with highs in the upper 30s to the low and mid-40s. A weak cold front will move through by late this evening, and it could trigger a couple scattered snow showers or flurries. Temperatures will be a couple degrees milder on Wednesday. Mostly sunny skies and chilly temperatures on Thursday and Friday. It will be breezy, so it will feel a bit chillier.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	Trace	0.12
Month to date	4.65	3.13
Total this year	6.48	6.41
Snowfall In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	Trace	0.4
Total this year	26.3	41.2

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



Air Quality Forecast For Today

Good	Moderate	11°
29	3	
Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet Index Today	Wind Chill Today

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	6:26 a.m.	6:25 a.m.
Sunset	5:40 p.m.	5:41 p.m.
Moonrise	6:16 a.m.	6:47 a.m.
Moonset	4:30 p.m.	5:44 p.m.

Moon Phase			
New Mar 2	First Mar 10	Full Mar 18	Last Mar 25

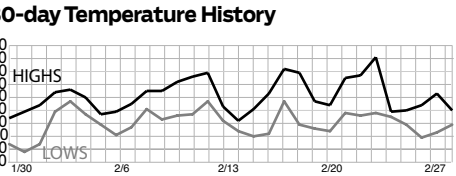
Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	8:03 a.m.	2:04 a.m.	38°
	8:24 p.m.	2:42 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	9:14 a.m.	2:57 a.m.	38°
	9:35 p.m.	3:35 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	11:57 a.m.	6:43 a.m.	
at Portland	p.m.	7:21 p.m.	
Madison	9:36 a.m.	3:18 a.m.	38°
	10:04 p.m.	3:52 p.m.	
New Haven	9:56 a.m.	3:42 a.m.	38°
	10:24 p.m.	4:16 p.m.	
Stamford	10:00 a.m.	3:56 a.m.	39°
	10:28 p.m.	4:30 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 7.25 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	MCloudy	VCloudy	VCloudy
Wind	S, 10-15	S, 10-15	S, 10-15
Seas	1 ft.	2-3 ft.	2-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Monday	30 at 3:38 p.m.	19 at 8:16 a.m.
Normal for date	42	24
Record for date	66 in 1976	-1 in 1920
A year ago	42	30
Range this year	71	-2

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Feb 28	3981	4339	4080



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.30 at 7 p.m.	29.97 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	20° at 3 p.m.	11° at 4 a.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND			
Bangor	34 28 C	Baltimore	54 38 PC
Burlington	31 19 SN	Bismarck	36 23 C
Caribou	22 17 C	Boise	47 34 C
Concord	35 28 SF	Buffalo	45 26 C
Montpelier	31 21 SN	Charleston	73 47 S
Mt. Wash.	12 5 SN	Cincinnati	59 41 PC
Portland	33 25 SN	Cleveland	49 30 SH
Woods Hole	40 34 PC	Indianapolis	63 37 PC
		Jacksonville	71 46 PC
NATION			
Albany	41 25 SF	Las Vegas	79 52 S
Albuquerque	64 41 PC	Miami Beach	78 69 PC
Atlantic City	50 35 PC	Milwaukee	44 28 C

WORLD			
Nashville	67 43 S	San Juan	87 74 PC
New Orleans	67 46 S	Tucson	81 49 PC
New York	44 38 C		
Oklahoma	74 40 S	WORLD	
Omaha	69 42 S	Amsterdam	46 35 SH
Orlando	79 58 PC	Athens	53 43 SH
Pittsburgh	54 34 SH	Bangkok	95 80 PC
Raleigh	65 44 S	Dubai	76 63 S
St. Louis	70 43 S	Dublin	48 44 PC
Salt Lake City	52 36 PC	Edinburgh	48 35 S
San Antonio	73 44 S	Helsinki	37 32 C
San Diego	76 55 S	Hong Kong	73 62 PC
Berlin	47 26 S	Istanbul	44 37 SH
Bermuda	67 64 SH	Jerusalem	63 52 PC
		Johannesburg	78 60 SH
		Singapore	90 76 SH

SUNDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULT

BOYS HOCKEY				
E.O. SMITH/TOLLAND 7, NORTHEASTERN 0				
EOS	3	3	1	- 7
N	0	0	0	- 0

MONDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL				
Others				
HARTFORD PUBLIC 65, UNIVERSITY 49				
Conference Tournaments				
NCCC—Quarterfinals				
SMSA 55, ROCKVILLE 46				

ROCKVILLE (10-12): Juneil Powell 1-0-2, Jayden Tate 2-1-5, Dylan Resendes 4-0-12, John Ryan 2-0-6, Eric Montez 5-5-21. Totals 14-6-46.				
SMSA (17-4): King Shraw 8-4-20, Nizayiah Bogar 2-0-5, Abijah Miller 5-1-11, Kernani Thompson 5-0-11, Daniel Hernandez 4-0-8. Totals 24-5-55.				
R	14	11	5	16 - 46
S	12	12	17	4 - 55

GRANBY 69, SOMERS 62				
SOMERS (15-6): John Zapolski 1-0-3, Troy Maia 3-0-6, Braden Davis 2-0-6, Connor Marchi 1-0-2, Cody Palazzesi 13-15-42. Totals 21-15-62.				
GRANBY (17-4): John Bell 0-2-2, Josh Brown 3-11-17, Justin Phillips 10-2-24, Ralph Rossi 4-0-8, Declan Lynch 4-0-9, Max Jansen 1-0-2, Liam Heinze 2-0-5, Troy Crockett 1-0-2. Totals 24-15-69.				
S	10	18	21	13 - 62
G	14	18	19	18 - 69

ELLINGTON 71, SUFFIELD 53				
ELLINGTON (13-8): Mike Bontempo 3-7-14, Darren Zahner 1-0-2, Eric Thibert 2-0-6, Louis Gosselin 6-3-18, Elijah Miller 3-6-13, Cody Murphy 5-0-11, Phil Vrakas 2-0-5, Caden Branon 1-0-2. Totals 24-16-71.				
SUFFIELD (12-9): Ryan Lewis 7-4-18, Nick Van Cott 2-0-6, Jack Pixton 5-0-11, Michael Coggins 2-0-4, Nick Sattan 3-0-6, Quinn Lynam 1-2-4. Totals 21-8-53.				
E	14	14	12	31 - 71
S	11	17	17	8 - 53

STAFFORD 43, CANTON 40				
CANTON (14-7): Khalil Thomas 2-0-4, Brandon Powell 4-3-12, Matthew Benedetti 4-1-9, Isaiah Reece 2-0-5, Luke Maher 4-2-10. Totals 16-6-40.				
STAFFORD (14-7): Tom Balanceau 3-0-7, Logan Biggs 2-3-8, Isaac Minaya 4-0-8, Mark McLaughlin 5-4-15, Collin Gudeman 2-1-5. Totals 16-8-43.				
C	17	9	9	5 - 40
S	8	9	14	12 - 43

CTC—Quarterfinals				
WINDHAM TECH 75, WINDHAM TECH 52				
CHENEY TECH (13-8): Kymani Thomas 1-5-7, Xavier McCall 4-3-12, Dammic Gittens 5-9-19, Omar Rios 7-4-18, Paul Carpenter 1-0-2, Daz Copeland 2-4-8, Cal Henderson 2-0-5, Jose Santacroce 1-0-2. Totals 44-25-75.				
WINDHAM TECH (16-5): Anthony Cichon 1-2-4, Daniel Toce 1-0-3, Alex Johnson 4-0-10, Trey Lindsey 0-1-1, Brody Belanger 7-3-19, Dylan Desautels 1-0-2, Danny Meikle 3-4-10, Connor LeBlanc 1-0-3. Totals 34-15-52.				
CT	20	15	8	32 - 75
WT	13	10	10	19 - 52

Of note: Meikle had a double-double with 12 rebounds.				
PRINCE TECH 60, BULLARD-HAVENS 48				
CRAL—First Round				
ACHIEVEMENT FIRST 64, AEROSPACE 52				
SCC—Semifinal (Floyd Little AC, New Haven)				
FAIRFIELD PREP 58, HAND 43				

GIRLS BASKETBALL				
CIAC State Tournaments				
Class LL—First Round				
Upper Bracket				
SOUTHTONING 50, WESTHILL 35				
MANCHESTER 45, NEWTOWN 33				
GREENWICH 43, CONARD 40				
WILTON 48, TRUMBULL 30				
HILLHOUSE 51, STAPLES 30				

Lower Bracket				
GLASTONBURY 43, NEW BRITAIN 24				
NEW BRITAIN (12-8): Adrianna Faienza 1-0-2, Kiatyanna Denmark 2-1-5, Xandra Silva 1-0-3, Layla Mejia 3-0-6, Jamly Carter 0-2-2, Kaylee Cahill 2-0-6. Totals 9-3-24.				
GLASTONBURY (13-8): Sydney Kehi 2-0-5, Kiley Feeney 3-1-9, Skylar Fiske 3-0-6, Gisel Astiasaran 5-1-12, Madison Handrahan 3-0-9, Lily Woodworth 1-0-2. Totals 17-2-43.				
NG	2	5	10	7 - 24
B	10	13	16	4 - 43

DANBURY 65, CHESHIRE 37				
NEW LONDON 79, AMITY 27				
RIDGEFIELD 50, NORWALK 27				
STAMFORD 53, FAIRFIELD WARDE 42				
WEST HAVEN 61, NEW CANAAN 44				
Class L—First Round				
Upper Bracket				
BRISTOL CENTRAL 45, PLATT 41				
E.O. SMITH 64, KENNEDY 11				
GUILFORD 45, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 29				
BETHLE 46, BRISTOL EASTERN 45				
TORRINGTON 44, STRATFORD 37				
FITCH 49, WCA 33				

Class MM—First Round				
Upper Bracket				
BERLIN 39, WESTON 35				
WESTON (9-12): Tori Kuzma 2-2-6, Shea Greene 2-0-6, Kat Tunney 3-2-8, Emily Melito 1-1-3, Caitlyn McKierman 0-8-8, Anna Brendsal 2-0-4. Totals 10-13-35.				
BERLIN (14-8): Jenna Wenzel 2-2-6, Janessa Yaconiello 0-1-1, Maddy Sadowski 0-2-2, Rylee Cop 3-0-8, Clare McGeever 4-0-11, Alivia Halkias 1-1-3, Kailee DeMaio 4-0-8. Totals 14-6-39.				
W	9	10	9	7 - 35
B	15	12	9	3 - 39

BRANFORD 39, WEAVER 28				
NORTHWESTERN 65, PRINCE TECH 30				
WATERFORD 50, ROCKY HILL 16				
KOLBE CATHEDRAL 49, FORAN 42				

Lower Bracket				
SUFFIELD 55, BULLARD-HAVENS 22				
BROOKFIELD 48, ELLINGTON 21				
KILLINGLY 45, SHEEHAN 44				
LEDYARD 69, AMISTAD 35				
EAST HAVEN 37, LAW 30				

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-North				
EAST CATHOLIC 4, GLASTONBURY 1				

SCC/SWC				
WEST HAVEN 5, HAND 3				

TUESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:30 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

Conference Tournaments				
CCC—Semifinals (Enfield HS): Windsor vs. Bristol Central, 6p.m.; Conard vs. Northwest Catholic, 8p.m.				
Shoreline—Semifinals: Portland at Morgan, 6 p.m.; East Hampton at Cromwell, 7p.m.				
CRAL—Semifinals: Achievement First at Weaver, 5p.m.; Classical at Capital Prep				
ECC—Final				
Division 2 (Mohegan Sun): Windham vs. Stonington, 6p.m.				

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments				
Class L—First Round				
Lower Bracket: No. 18New Milford (9-11) at No. 15Wethersfield (10-10); No. 26East Lyme (7-13) at No. 7Maloney (15-5); No. 23Masuk (8-12) at No. 10Farmington (13-7), 6p.m.; No. 19North Haven (9-11) at No. 14Naugatuck (10-10); No. 27Rockville (6-14) at No. 6Pomperaug (15-5); No. 22South Windsor (8-12) at No. 11Windham (12-7)				
Class M—First Round				
Upper Bracket: No. 17Plainfield (12-8) at No. 16Watertown (12-8), 6p.m.; No. 25Norwich Tech (7-12) at No. 8New Fairfield (16-4); No. 24Capital Prep (7-10) at No. 9Granby (16-4), 6p.m.; No. 29Oxford (6-14) at No. 4Abbott Tech (18-2); No. 20Montville (10-10) at No. 13Windham (13-7); No. 28Haddam-Killingworth (6-14) at No. 5Valley Regional (17-3); No. 21Ansonia (10-10) at No. 12North Branford (14-6)				
Lower Bracket: No. 18Platt Tech (12-8) at No. 15Griswold (12-8); No. 26Lewis Mills (7-13) at No. 7Cromwell (16-4), 5p.m.; No. 23Wolcott (9-11) at				

No. 10Woodland (15-5); No. 19Stonington (11-9) at No. 14O'Brien Tech (13-7); No. 27Wilcox Tech (7-13) at No. 6Seymour (17-3); No. 22Morgan (9-11) at No. 11Goodwin Tech (14-5)				
Class S—First Round				
Upper Bracket: No. 17St. Bernard (10-9) at No. 16Coginchaug (11-9); No. 25Wheeler (8-12) at No. 8Gilbert (13-7); No. 24Shepaug (8-12) at No. 9Wolcott Tech (13-7); No. 20Ellis Tech (10-10) at No. 13Aerospace (12-8); No. 28East Granby (6-14) at No. 5Bolton (15-5); No. 21Classical (10-10) at No. 12Stafford (12-8)				
Lower Bracket: No. 18Canton (10-10) at No. 15Immaculate (11-9); No. 26Portland (6-12) at No. 7Parish Hill (13-7), 6p.m.; No. 23East Windsor (8-12) at No. 10Old Lyme (13-7); No. 19Lyman Memorial (10-10) at No. 14Civic Leadership (12-8), 5p.m.; No. 27Vinal Tech (5-10) at No. 6Housatonic (14-5), 6p.m.; No. 22Westbrook (9-11) at No. 11Windsor Locks (12-8)				
BOYS HOCKEY				
CCC-North: Simsbury at Glastonbury, 7:30p.m.				
SCC/SWC: Hand at Guilford, 6:45p.m.				
Others: Farmington Valley at Lyman Hall, 4p.m.; South Windsor at McMahon/Norwalk, 7:10 p.m.; Westhill/Stamford at East Haven co-op, 8:45p.m.				
BOYS SWIMMING				
CCC-South: Platt/Maloney at Berlin, 6p.m.				
CCC-West: CCC-West Championship (West Hartford), 3:30p.m.				
Others: Enfield at Granby, 3:45p.m.				

MONDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL				
NEC Tournament—Opening Round				
CENTRAL 67, FAIRFIELD DICKINSON 66				

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UMASS LOWELL 56, HARTFORD 46				
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TUESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hartford at Albany, 7p.m.				
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BASEBALL

Hartford at Central, 3p.m.				
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MEN'S LACROSSE

Fairfield at Sacred Heart, 7p.m.				
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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Quinnipiac at Yale, 4p.m.				
Eastern at Curry, 5p.m.				

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn at Creighton, 8:30p.m.				
NEC Tournament—Quarterfinals				
Central at Bryant, 7p.m.				
Sacred Heart at LIU, 7p.m.				

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Quinnipiac at Manhattan, 7p.m.				
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BASEBALL

Sacred Heart at Stony Brook, 3p.m.				
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WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Hockey East Tournament—Semifinal				
UConn at Vermont, 6p.m.				

MEN'S LACROSSE

Eastern at Johnson & Wales, 4p.m.				
Nichols at St. Joseph, 4p.m.				

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Central at Manhattan, 3p.m.				
Iona at Sacred Heart, 3p.m.				
St. Joseph at Bard, 6p.m.				

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Sacred Heart at UConn, 1p.m.				
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GOLF TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

No. 7-ranked Thomas to play in tournament

Staff report

Justin Thomas, a 14-time PGA Tour winner, has committed to play in the 2022 Travelers Championship, the tournament announced on Monday.

Thomas, currently No. 7 in the Official World Golf Ranking, will be making his eighth appearance at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. He made his Travelers Championship debut as an amateur after receiving a sponsor exemption, and his best finish was a tie for third in 2016.

"Justin has been a big part of this tournament since his first visit in 2013, and we appreciate his continued support," said Travelers Championship tournament director Nathan Grube. "He had a great year last year and was a vital part of helping the U.S. team capture the Ryder Cup. We're excited to see what he will do against some tough competition at TPC River Highlands."

Thomas's best finish so far this season is third place at the World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba in November 2021.

Thomas has recorded PGA Tour victories in each of the past six seasons, most recently The Players Championship in 2021. His best year was 2017 when he was named the PGA Tour's player of the year, captured the FedExCup points title and won five tournaments, including the PGA Championship for his first major title. He has been a member of the past two U.S. Ryder Cup teams and the past two Presidents Cup teams. Thomas also competed in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Thomas joins Rory McIlroy and Dustin Johnson in the field for the 2022